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THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE PRINCE OF WALES: ARRIVAL AT WOLFERTON STATION, NEAR SANDRINGHAM.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S MESSAGE.

A telegram from the United States in the early part of the week has made the British public acquainted with the principal topics treated of by President Grant's Message to Congress on Monday last. We must wait a few days before we are able to appreciate at its precise worth the State document the sketchy outline of which we already possess. But the summary which has been transmitted to the English press fully enables us to judge of the general purport and character of the Message. It resembles a landscape composed of a variety of distinct features, all, or almost all, of which are bathed in sunshine. Scarcely a cloud flecks the political firmament. External relations, federal connections, domestic conditions, finance, revenue, produce, trade—all exhibit, in an unusually clear light, evidences of prosperity. This is the more extraordinary, inasmuch as hardly six years have elapsed since the close of the gigantic civil war, during which, one would have supposed, the resources of the country and the energy of its population must have been wasted, beyond all chance of recovery, for a generation at least. No doubt, sad traces yet exist here and there of the destructive fury of that terrible struggle, and hundreds of thousands of private families still mourn the irreparable losses they sustained. But the national life has proved to be so abundantly recuperative that it shows scarcely a scar of the deep wounds inflicted upon it by the war of Secession. The unity of the Federation is as perfect now as it was before it was rent asunder by the first cannon shot fired against Fort Sumter. The bitterness of spirit which separated North from South is gradually giving way. The slave question no longer excites any differences of opinion or of feeling. The negro himself, the occasion of the fraternal strife, has been boldly admitted within the pale of the Constitution, and has been recognised by the law of the Union as "a man and a brother." The mountain of debt, so suddenly heaped up by war expenditure, is being steadily, and, by comparison with the habits of European nations, rapidly diminished, and the President meets the Legislature, not now to stimulate it to self-sacrifice, but to congratulate it upon the pleasantness of the position and prospects of the country.

President Grant alludes to European Powers at no great length, but with assurances that must be satisfactory to American citizens. The Republic over which he exercises the power and the influence of chief magistracy has fortunately been prevented, not less by settled policy than by geographical position, from mixing itself up with the political and international affairs of European States. It is content to hold its own, and is fully conscious of being able to do this without reserve, without compromise, and without any serious apprehension of attempted encroachment. The President, consequently, is able to assure Congress of the continued maintenance of friendly relations with all the States of the Old World. During the recent war between France and Germany the great Republic found it quite possible to avoid hurting the inflamed susceptibilities of either of the belligerents, although unquestionably it used greater freedom in the assertion of its own rights than some of the neighbouring Powers, who found it necessary to walk with more circumspection. Its diplomatic representatives in Berlin and in Paris will doubtless be commended both for firmness and for tact; but the jealousy and the suspicion with which every movement of European Powers was watched by each of the contending nations, and the irritability towards them of which each gave proof during the progress of the struggle, were never felt in regard to the United States, chiefly because distance rendered any intervention on the part of the Government at Washington improbable to the last degree. Still, it was natural for President Grant to felicitate his fellow-citizens upon the good offices which their representatives abroad were able to discharge towards the contending Powers, and upon the recognition of them, as such, by both. No less satisfactory is the President's brief reference to the relation subsisting between the Governments at Washington and Rome. The annexation of the States of the Church to Italy, by which Rome has become the capital of the Italian Kingdom, was not likely to raise any obstacle to the cordial intercourse of the two peoples. The bonds which unite them are becoming more intimate, and a treaty has been made between them providing that private property at sea shall be exempt from capture in case of war—a rule which the President announces he will omit no opportunity of incorporating among the obligations of nations. He alludes with evident pleasure to the visit of the Grand Duke Alexis, as illustrating the cordial relations which continue to be cherished between the United States and Russia.

The Treaty of Washington, concluded between the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic, is spoken of in terms which indicate the high satisfaction of the President. "The year has been eventful," he says, "in witnessing two nations which speak the same language adopting a peaceful arbitration for the settlement of disputes of long standing, which were liable at one time to cause a conflict." And he adds these pregnant words:—"An example has thus been set which, if successful in its issue, may be followed by other civilised nations, and possibly be the means of restoring to productive industry millions of men now engaged in military and naval employments." Every friend of humanity will ardently desire that the possibility alluded to by President Grant may presently become a realised fact. If this is too much to be hoped for, the removal of all differences between England and America will be at least accepted as a boon of incalculable worth. The treaty, whatever concessions it may have cost this nation, has done more to soothe the irritated temper of our kinsmen across the ocean than any act that could have been performed. No one, we make bold to predict, will regret the small sacrifices by which cordial agreement has been restored. If England gives more than she takes, England may congratulate herself that the result will be unspeakably more precious both to her and to the Republic than could have been secured by the most successful war. To her, at any rate, these sentences in the Message of the President are the sunniest spot in the sunny picture which it exhibits. They light up the present time with gladness, and they throw a ray of joyful hope far into the future.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO SANDRINGHAM.

The journey of her Majesty from Windsor to Norfolk, on Wednesday week, for the purpose of visiting the Prince of Wales in his illness at Sandringham, was briefly noticed in our last. The Queen set out from Windsor Castle at eleven o'clock in the morning, attended by the Duchess of Roxburghe, Lord Alfred Paget, and Colonel Ponsonby. The special train consisted of an engine and six carriages, the two Royal saloons belonging to the London and North-Western Railway Company being placed in the middle of the train. The route over the South-Western line was viâ Staines, Ashford, Feltham, Hounslow, and Brentford to the Kew junction of the North London line, which was reached at about a quarter to twelve. Thence her Majesty travelled over the North London Railway to Victoria Park, and so on to the Great Eastern Railway, the journey being continued viâ Cambridge and King's Lynn to Wolferton, where his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh met her Majesty, who at once entered the private carriage of the Prince of Wales and proceeded to Sandringham, arriving there about half-past three in the afternoon. The Queen remained at Sandringham till noon on the Friday. She then took leave of the Prince, and set out on her return journey to Windsor. She was attended by the Duchess of Roxburghe and Colonel Ponsonby, and was escorted to the Wolferton station by the Duke of Edinburgh, who took leave of her Majesty on the platfom. The departure of the Queen was looked upon as a hopeful fact, in so far as it implied a belief that the Prince was considered by his physicians to be out of immediate danger.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our Correspondent in Paris.)

Thursday, Dec. 7.

The National Assembly has met again for its winter session, but as yet has only transacted some formal business, such as the constitution of the bureaux and the re-election of its president, in which latter case M. Grévy was again returned by a large majority. As yet we have no reliable information concerning the Message from the President of the Republic, and have to fall back upon the many contrary rumours circulated by the various organs of the Paris press. On Monday last, when the Assembly held its first sitting pro formâ, considerable interest and curiosity were exhibited by the occupants of the tribunes, as well as in various parts of the House, by the report that it was the intention of the Orleans Princes to take their seats. The rumour proved unfounded, although it had been confidently asserted by every newspaper in Paris; and we learn today that M. Thiers has expressed a wish to the Princes that they would keep the engagement they entered into upon being elected as members. The present situation is, however, particularly unjust towards the electors of the Princes, who remain without representatives in the Assembly; and it is probable that the Duc d'Aumale and the Prince de Joinville will shortly either resign or, putting aside M. Thiers's objection, will take the seats they are entitled to occupy. On Saturday the petition to the Assembly concerning the restitution of their property will be discussed by the Chamber.

A commemorative funeral service took place last Saturday at Champigny, it being the anniversary of the battle fought there during the siege of Paris, when Ducrot crossed the Marne at the head of his army. Mass was said in two tents hung with black drapery and decorated with flags, the Abbé Domenech, who was present at the battle, officiating. A great concourse of people collected to witness the ceremony, detachments of the various corps who fought in the engagement and representatives of the various ambulances being present. Among the notabilities were the Archbishop of Paris, General Ladmirault, the Governor of Paris, and Generals Ducrot, Maud'huy, and Appert. At the conclusion of the service the Archbishop delivered a short address, painting the horrors of war and calling for concord and peace. When he had concluded General Ducrot announced that he had been authorised to speak by M. Thiers, and then painted an eloquent picture of the battle and paid a tribute to the memory of the many brave men who had fallen that day. The proceedings then terminated, amid loud shouts of "Vive la France!" "Vive la République!"

The Communist trials continue, and really begin to seem as interminable as the Tichborne case, with this difference, that, while the latter is engrossing public attention across the Channel, but little interest is evinced here with regard to the fate of the adherents of the Commune of Paris. The sixth court-martial has recently condemned Préau de Vedel to death, Berthier and Soipteur to ten years' hard labour, Pollet to ten years' imprisonment, and Ben to two years of the same penalty for being concerned in the assassination of the unfortunate journalist and sometime adjoint of Paris, Gustave Chaudey. The arm of the law has also fallen heavily upon the notorious Colonel Lisbonne, who was Governor of the Hôtel de Ville during the Commune, and who defended so desperately the Place du Château d'Eau against the regular troops during the street-fighting in Paris. The third court-martial has condemned Colonel Lisbonne to death. The Communists implicated in the riots which occurred at St. Etienne, last spring, have been condemned to various terms of transportation and imprisonment with hard labour.

The President of the Republic has appointed Viscount de Gontaut-Biron as Ambassador to the Emperor of Germany.

ITALY.

Court life is in full swing at Rome. On Wednesday week the Emperor and Empress of Brazil received the members of the Diplomatic Body. Several Cardinals were also present at the reception. The Emperor and Empress left, next evening, for Florence. The Ministers of France and Belgium went, on Thursday week, to the palace to congratulate Prince Humbert and Princess Margherita.

The Telegraphic Congress was opened yesterday week, under the presidency of Commander Amico.

BELGIUM.

According to information from Brussels, the political crisis may be considered at an end. After a few days of uncertainty, which were redeemed from dulness by intermittent outbursts of popular agitation, the D'Anethan Ministry resigned, and M. de Theux, a member of the Right, was commissioned by the King to form a Cabinet, which he has done.

The King passed through the streets of Brussels on Saturday last, and was loudly cheered.

GERMANY.

The German Parliament yesterday week passed the bill providing for the Army Estimates for the next three years by a majority of 152 votes against 128. Subsequently the House passed the whole Budget, and then an Imperial message was read declaring the Parliamentary Session closed.

Mr. Odo Russell, the newly-appointed British Minister at the Court of Berlin, presented his credentials to the Emperor of Germany on Monday.

A telegram from Berlin makes the important announcement that the German Government has declared the whole of the territory occupied by their troops in France in a state of siege, and that crimes committed against German soldiers will hereafter be dealt with by the German courts-martial.

The King of Bavaria has sanctioned the abolition of the Ministry of Commerce.

The Saxon Diet was opened, last Saturday, by the King. In the Speech from the Throne his Majesty referred to the share the Saxon troops had in the establishment of the empire, and described the condition of the country as being highly satisfactory.

AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

The Emperor has addressed an autograph letter to General Baron von Gablenz, acceding to his request to be allowed to retire on account of ill-health, and conferring upon him the grand cross of the Order of Leopold.

AMERICA.

Congress assembled at noon on Monday. The President's Message recommends the modification of the tariff and the abolishment of all internal taxes except spirits, tobacco, and stamps. In alluding to the relations with Great Britain, it says:—"This year has witnessed two great nations, having one language and lineage, settling by peaceful arbitration disputes of long standing, which were liable at any time to bring nations to a bloody conflict. The example thus set, if successful in its final issue, will be followed by other civilised nations, and finally be the means of returning to pursuits of industry millions of men now maintained to settle disputes of nations by the sword."

The Swedish Minister of War has resigned, and is succeeded by Orest Weidenheim.

By an explosion at the Agra laboratory thirty-four natives and two Europeans have been killed.

The next mails for Australia will be dispatched from London as follow:—Viâ Southampton, on the morning of Dec. 23; viâ Brindisi, on the evening of Dec. 29.

The council for the administration of the St. Gothard Railway has elected Mr. Hergog, of Aarau, president; and Messrs. Eschen, of Zurich, Zeogg, of Lucerne, and Weber, of Berne, directors of the undertaking.

News from the Cape is full of diamonds. It is estimated that diamonds are found weekly to the value of £10,000. One has been picked up of 154 carats—"the largest gem of its description that has been found in this century." The diamond-fields have been annexed by proclamation, which was generally approved throughout the colony. Mr. Campbell, Commandant Bowker, and Advocate Thompson had been appointed High Commissioners at the fields. A High Court has been established for the fields, with Advocate Barry as Recorder. Archdeacon Merriman has been elected Bishop of Grahamstown.

It is announced, in a communication to the papers from the committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, that Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake has just returned to Damascus, after passing through the Ulah to Aleppo. The Ulah (uplands) begins on a parallel east of Hamâh, the ancient Hamath. It is marked in some of our maps as the Great Syrian Desert—an unfortunate misnomer, as it is a region exceptionally fertile. Unfortunately, the Bedawîn have been allowed to harry the country, and consequently the 360 towns which once existed here are now all in ruins. The extensive immigrations of Circassians which has recently taken place will also tend further to the destruction of these remains. It is therefore gratifying to add that Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake has returned laden, not only with sketches, plans, measurements, but also with Greek inscriptions, of which there are a great number lying about. These would, of course, if left uncopied, soon have perished with the stones on which they are inscribed. Letters have also been received at the office of the Palestine Exploration Fund from Captain Stewart, R.E. He has arrived safely at Jaffa, and finds that his instruments, many of them of great delicacy, have escaped any material injury. Up to the date of his letter he had been principally occupied in unpacking, arranging for the commencement of his work, and testing his instruments. It is hoped that Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake will be able to join him by Christmas.

Lady Bath has sent a donation of £100 towards the restoration of Kildare Cathedral.

The Prince of Wales's challenge cup, presented by his Royal Highness to the Oxford University Rifle Corps, has been again won by the holder, Mr. E. J. Penrose, of Christ Church.

A society of painters in water colours has been established in Liverpool, and it is intended to hold an exhibition early in the coming spring.

The long-drawn-out cross-examination of Mr. Baigent in the Tichborne case has been continued throughout the past week. It is very heavy, although occasionally enlivened by little bits of by-play between the witness and counsel.

On Monday the Irish Court of Common Pleas delivered judgment in the case of "Wallace v. Seymour." The action was one of ejectment brought by Sir Richard Wallace against Lord Henry Seymour to recover the Irish estates of the late Marquis of Hertford, worth about £50,000 a year. The point at issue was whether a codicil to a will of the late Marquis revoked in favour of Sir R. Wallace the bequest to Lord Henry Seymour contained in the body of the will. The case had been tried at Belfast Assizes, and resulted in a verdict for the defendant. The Court of Common Pleas unanimously decided on upholding the verdict of the Court below.

THE COURT.

The Queen returned to Windsor Castle, yesterday (Friday) week, from visiting the Prince of Wales.

On Saturday last Prince Arthur arrived at the castle from Dover. Sir Howard Elphinstone also arrived.

On Sunday the Queen, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service in the private chapel of the castle. The Rev. Henry White officiated.

On Monday Prince Arthur left the castle for Dover. Sir Howard Elphinstone also left the castle. The Austrian Ambassador and Countess Apponyi had audiences of the Queen. The Ambassador presented his letters of recall. The Lord and Groom in Waiting were in attendance.

On Tuesday the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at the castle. Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne left the castle. Lord Lyons, Ambassador at Paris, had an audience of the Queen. The Lord in Waiting was in attendance. The Dean of Windsor dined with her Majesty.

On Wednesday the Duke of Edinburgh left the castle.

The Queen, accompanied by the members of the Royal family, takes frequent drives.

Her Majesty receives constant telegraphic communications concerning the state of the Prince of Wales.

The five children of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the five children of Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, continue at Windsor Castle, under the care of the Queen.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The latest bulletins respecting the condition of the Prince of Wales announced that there is a regular though gradual decline of the symptoms, which denotes a favourable progress. His Royal Highness passes quieter nights, and his strength is still sustained. Bulletins, signed by Sir William Jenner, Dr. Gull, and Dr. Lowe, are issued twice daily, copies of which are posted in all the Government offices, police-courts, railway stations, and other public places in the metropolis.

The Princess of Wales attained her twenty-seventh year on the 1st inst. The day was observed at Windsor with the customary honours. The bells of St. George's Chapel and St. John's Church were rung, and Royal salutes were fired from the Long Walk, Fort Belvedere, and the Royal Adelaide frigate, in Virginia Water.

On Sunday the Princess, with the Duke of Edinburgh, attended Divine service at Sandringham church. The Rev. W. Lake Onslow officiated. Hymns appropriate to the afflicting circumstances of the Royal family were sung.

On Monday the Duke of Edinburgh passed some time shooting in the Royal preserves, for the first time since the illness of his brother. His Royal Highness left Sandringham on the following day for London.

The Duke of Edinburgh presided, on Wednesday, at a meeting of the executive committee of the Royal Albert Hall, held at the South Kensington Museum.

Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne will leave town in the course of a few days on a Continental tour.

His Excellency the Swedish and Norwegian Minister and the Baroness Hochschild have returned to Great Cumberland-place from Brighton.

His Excellency Count Beust arrived in town, on Sunday, from Vienna.

His Excellency the Hon. H. Adams has arrived at Maurigy's Hotel from Washington.

Sir R. P. Collier, on Monday, took his seat for the first time as a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Chief Justice Bovill has appointed Mr. Hassard Hume Dodgson to the Mastership of the Common Pleas, vacant by the death of Master Park.

Miss Julia Reed, a young lady nineteen years of age, residing at Sidcup, was shot dead, on Thursday week, by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of Mr. Matthews.

Last Saturday, between 800 and 900 yards of the West Pier at Leith, was destroyed by fire. An Engraving will be given next week.

Earl Rosslyn was re-elected Grand Master Mason of Scotland on Thursday week. At the banquet which followed the installation, in the Freemasons' Hall at Edinburgh, about 300 members of the craft were present.

The Postmaster-General has issued a circular to the provincial postmasters announcing that the system of rural post-messengers and letter-carriers presenting to the public appeals for Christmas-boxes will no longer be permitted.

A telegram from the Eclipse Expedition, dated Mangalore, Southern India, on Wednesday, says:—"We landed from the flagship all well. The Government arrangements are admirable. The weather is promising, and the parties are posted as had been arranged."

At the village of Buckland, near Kingsbridge, Devon, on Sunday, a farmer named Moore, over eighty years of age, was discovered lying on the fire dead, with his clothes in flames and his body partially burnt. It is supposed deceased fell on the fire while in a fit.

Lady Edith Christian Fergusson, a brief notice of whom appeared in our Obituary Column last week, was the wife of the Right Hon. Sir James Fergusson, Bart., Governor of South Australia, and she died at Adelaide. In a few copies it was wrongly stated that Sir Fergusson was Governor of Victoria, and that Lady Edith died at Melbourne.

The Yorkshire Society's Christmas exhibition of stock, under the presidency of the Earl of Zetland, was held on Tuesday at York. The prizes, in money, cups, and plate, were of the total value of nearly £450, and as a whole the exhibition was one of the best which it is known Yorkshiremen are able to produce.

Warwick Castle, one of the finest specimens of ancient feudal residences in the kingdom, was, on Sunday, almost destroyed by fire. Details are given in another column, in connection with an Engraving. Next week we shall give an Illustration of the Ruins. A Coloured View of Warwick Castle was given in the Number for July 3, 1858, on the occasion of the Queen's Visit to Birmingham, when her Majesty honoured the castle with her presence.

An action for libel was tried, yesterday week, in the Court of Exchequer, the plaintiff being Miss Harrison, a young governess in a proprietary college at Great Barfield, in Essex. The plaintiff had a quarrel with the principal of the college, Mr. Thomas Mace, in consequence of being required to teach music on an old pianoforte, which cost, as she said, no more than 30s. Upon this she gave a month's notice and left, and afterwards, on negotiating with a Miss Foote for another engagement, that lady received, instead of a good character from Mr. Mace, a letter stating that Miss Harrison had been guilty of impropriety of conduct. The jury found for the plaintiff, but gave her only a farthing damages.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Barry, W. T.; to be Curate of Belchamp Walter, Sudbury.
Bayly, T.; Vicar of Weaverthorpe.
Bernard, Edward Russell; Chaplain to the Bishop of Salisbury.
Chadwick, J. W.; Vicar of St. Michael's, Wakefield.
Codd, Alfred; Rural Dean of Bridport (fourth portion).
Cook, Flavel Smith; Vicar of Christ Church, Clifton.
Drummond, A. H.; Vicar of Kempley.
Kinnear, Henry Gott; Vicar of Burton Pidsea.
Knight, T. H.; Rector of Whatlington, Sussex.
Orr, A. B.; Curate of Irton and Drigg, Cumberland.
Pullein, John; Incumbent of Weeton, near Harewood.
Stanton, W. D.; Vicar of Toddington, with Stanley Pontlarge.
Stooke, Frederick Salter; Vicar of Wellington Heath, near Ledbury.
Syer, T.; Vicar of Ravensden, Bedford.
Whiting, R. C.; Rector of Kettleburgh, Suffolk.
Wickham, C.; Rector of Compton, Hampshire.
Wilson, W. B.; Curate of Irton and Drigg, Cumberland.
Wright, H.; Vicar of Swaffham, Norfolk.

The Bishop of Rochester will hold his ordination on St. Thomas's Day, Dec. 21, instead of on Sunday, the 24th.

The Archbishop of Canterbury received the Bishops of both provinces at Lambeth Palace, on Tuesday, when twenty-three of their Lordships attended.

The Archdeaconry of Chester, vacant by the resignation of the Ven. William Pollock, D.D., has been conferred upon the Rev. Edward Ralph Johnson, M.A., Rector of Northenden.

On Saturday the arguments in the Bennett appeal case were brought to a close before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Their Lordships reserved judgment.

The Rev. Alfred Willis, M.A., Vicar of St. Mark's Church, New Brompton, Chatham, has accepted the Bishopric of Honolulu, vacant by the resignation of Dr. Staley.

St. Andrew's Waterside Mission Church, Gravesend, was consecrated on St. Andrew's Day by Bishop Claughton, Archdeacon of London, acting for the Bishop of Rochester.

The Derby schools, St. Peter's, Great Windmill-street, named after the late Earl of Derby as a memorial of his great munificence to that district, which have cost £5000, were opened last week by Lord Francis Hervey.

The Church of St. Andrew, Bywell, was reopened on St. Andrew's Day. The additions consist of a new north transept and chancel aisle. The reredos, stone pulpit, chancel pavement, organ, and altar service plate were special gifts by Mrs. Fenwick, Mrs. Burnet, Miss Slater, and others.

St. Luke's Schools, Miles Platting, which have lately been built at a cost of £2400, were opened on Advent Sunday for Divine service. The class-rooms and other offices are very spacious, and have been designed to accommodate, on week days, 516 children. The upper room has temporary fittings, suitable for the Church of England ritual.

The Church of St. Mildred, Poultry, opposite the Mansion House, was for ever closed last week. The fiat of the Bishop of London was read at the last vestry. His Lordship deemed it undesirable to hold a closing service, as the building is almost unsafe. For many years few attended the services, and of late it was always doubtful whether the canonical number of three hearers would be present. Scarcely a dozen people sleep in the parish. The vestry clerk stated that on his appointment, in 1848, every vestryman slept in the parish, now only one; such is the altered state of society. The site of 4000 ft. or 5000 ft. is for sale by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The Metropolitan Board of Works have purchased for £7000 the Church of St. Mary, Newington, which stood in the way of local improvements, and was not in itself a desirable building. The parish contains 12,000 souls, and it is proposed, with an additional £5000, to erect another church on a site given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and to have a mission chapel in the neighbourhood of the old church at a cost of £4000 more. A meeting of the parishioners was held on Monday, under the presidency of the Rev. D. Maclagan, Rector, at which the Lord Chancellor was to have been present, but was prevented by indisposition. In the course of the proceedings the Bishop of London, who was warmly received, stated he was the patron of the parish, though the Lord Chancellor had presented Mr. Maclagan, and he regretted his Lordship's absence, as it deprived him of the opportunity of publicly thanking his Lordship for the appointment he then made. The Rector read out a list of subscriptions—of which his own was the largest, a promise of £1000—which elicited great applause. There were also contributions of £500, £200, and £100, while he stated that the poor of the parish were subscribing at the rate of one penny a week. Altogether, the subscriptions realised more than £2000.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The Rev. James Bellamy, B.D., one of the Senior Fellows and Precentor of St. John's, Oxford, was, on Thursday, elected President, in the room of the late Rev. Dr. Wynter.——The following gentlemen have been elected scholars of Wadham College:—Mr. Thomas Bowman, elected for mathematics, from Bristol Grammar School; Mr. James Robert Vernam Marchant, from the City of London School; Mr. Francis Guy Selby, from Durham Grammar School; and Mr. Thomas Edward Child, from King Edward's School, Birmingham. At the same time a Bible clerkship was awarded to Mr. Llewelyn Walter Lloyd, from Magdalen College School; and exhibitions to Mr. Henry Stacey Skipton, from Cheltenham College, and Mr. Henry Austin Wilson, from Trinity College, Glenalmond.

Mr. William Arthur Brailey has been elected a Fellow of Downing College, Cambridge; and Mr. William Michael Spence, B.A., of Pembroke, has been elected a Fellow of his college.——At a meeting of the University Boat Club, held last Saturday evening—Mr. Goldie, of St. John's College, presiding—the challenge from the Oxford University Boat Club to row the usual annual race in the spring was accepted.

A meeting of the contributors to the Mortimer Memorial Fund was held at the City of London School yesterday week, at which it was announced that upwards of £600 had been promised. It was also resolved that the subscription-list should be closed on Jan. 20, 1872, and that as soon as possible after that time a scholarship should be founded and presented to the London School Board for the purpose of connecting public elementary schools within the meaning of the Act with schools of a higher grade in the metropolitan district.

The boys at Christ's Hospital were last week publicly examined in, to them, a new branch of education—that of drilling—and passed, in review order, before the Duke of Cambridge. The school has only been under training about six months, but the manœuvres were executed without confusion.

Mr. John Pickford, M.A., late Scholar of Brasenose College, and Boden Sanskrit Scholar, Oxford, and Professor of Sanskrit at the Presidency College, Madras, M.R.A.S., has been added to the staff of masters at St. Paul's College, Stony Stratford.

Admiral Sir William Ramsay, K.C.B., died in Edinburgh, on Sunday, at the age of seventy-five.

THE BIRMINGHAM POULTRY SHOW.

The Birmingham Cattle and Poultry Show Society is about to be reconstituted as an association owning property and engaging in business transactions. The new "Birmingham Agricultural Exhibition Society" will preserve a list of members yielding £1500 worth of subscriptions. It will continue to hold a shorthorn show in March, a horse show in August, and a fat cattle and poultry show in November. At this, the November exhibition, will be offered, in each year, above £2000 worth of prizes, more than £200 worth of cups, and distinctive honours. The same management will prevail; and visitors will receive the same attention from the stewards and the secretary. The committee have enlarged the accommodation in Bingley Hall. The gallery has been extended round three sides of the large quadrangular building, and the committee have provided a greater number of standings for animals, stalls for vegetable produce, and pens for birds.

The twenty-third annual exhibition in Bingley Hall (held last week) presented the same number of cattle entries as last year, a large increase in the sheep classes, a still greater increase in pigs, an addition to the very extensive display of roots of 1870, a full show of poultry, and a marked increase in the number of pigeons. The poultry show, of which we now more particularly speak, was almost inconveniently crowded with specimens. The fancy for birds of the yard and loft is so far from declining that the pressure of entries in this original and standard show of the kingdom can be kept down only by a heavy rate of entrance fees; but it is now becoming apparent that, if Birmingham is to hold its fame and pre-eminence over other poultry shows, ample room must be provided. In respect of quality, this year shows no falling off in any of the classes. The Dorkings, Cochins, Brahmas, game, and especially the favourite game Bantams, were exhibited in the highest state of perfection, with few inferior birds. It was remarked that most of the varieties, including the Houdon, Crèvecœur, and other French breeds, surpassed their show of last year. It is still evident that, among fanciers in general, to win at Birmingham is considered a carrying off of the blue ribbon, and many a champion bird of other shows is here obliged to be content with honourable mention only. Mr. J. R. Fowler's first-prize Aylesbury drake and duck weigh 17 lb. 12 oz., and his second-prize Aylesbury drake and duck, 16 lb. 12 oz. Mr. Thomas Slatter's first-prize Rouen drake and duck weigh 19 lb. 5 oz.; and Mr. J. Scotson's second-prize Rouen drake and duck weigh 19 lb. 1 oz. Mr. J. R. Fowler's first-prize white gander and goose weigh 56 lb. 9 oz.; and the Rev. G. Hostler's second-prize white gander and goose weigh the same. Mr. Fowler's first-prize grey gander and goose, hatched in 1871, and only seven months old, weigh 47 lb. Mr. Frederick Lythall's first-prize American turkey cock weighs 36 lb. 4 oz.; and his second-prize Cambridge turkey cock, 33 lb. 8 oz. The same exhibitor's first-prize turkey cock, hatched in 1871, and only six months old, weighs 28 lb. Mr. E. Leech's first-prize turkey hens weigh 38 lb. 12 oz. the pair; and his first-prize turkey hens, hatched in 1871, weigh 28 lb. 10 oz. the pair. The pigeons presented a very great increase of numbers over last year; and, while improvement in quality was observable in many classes, the black carriers, pouter cocks, dragons, and birds of every other variety were especially excellent.

The poultry represented in our Illustrations are Mr. J. R. Fowler's pair of white geese and his pair of white ducks, above mentioned, from the Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury. The pigeons which figure in the same Engravings are the white fantail shown by the Rev. W. Sergeanton, of Acton Burnel Rectory, near Shrewsbury, which took the first prize; a pair of barbs, sent by Mr. T. Waddington, of Blackburn, which likewise gained the first prize of their class, and were sold for £42; and a blue pouter hen, owned by Mr. F. Gresham, of Shefford, Bedfordshire, which had obtained many prizes at other shows, and was here equally successful.

THE BIRMINGHAM DOG SHOW.

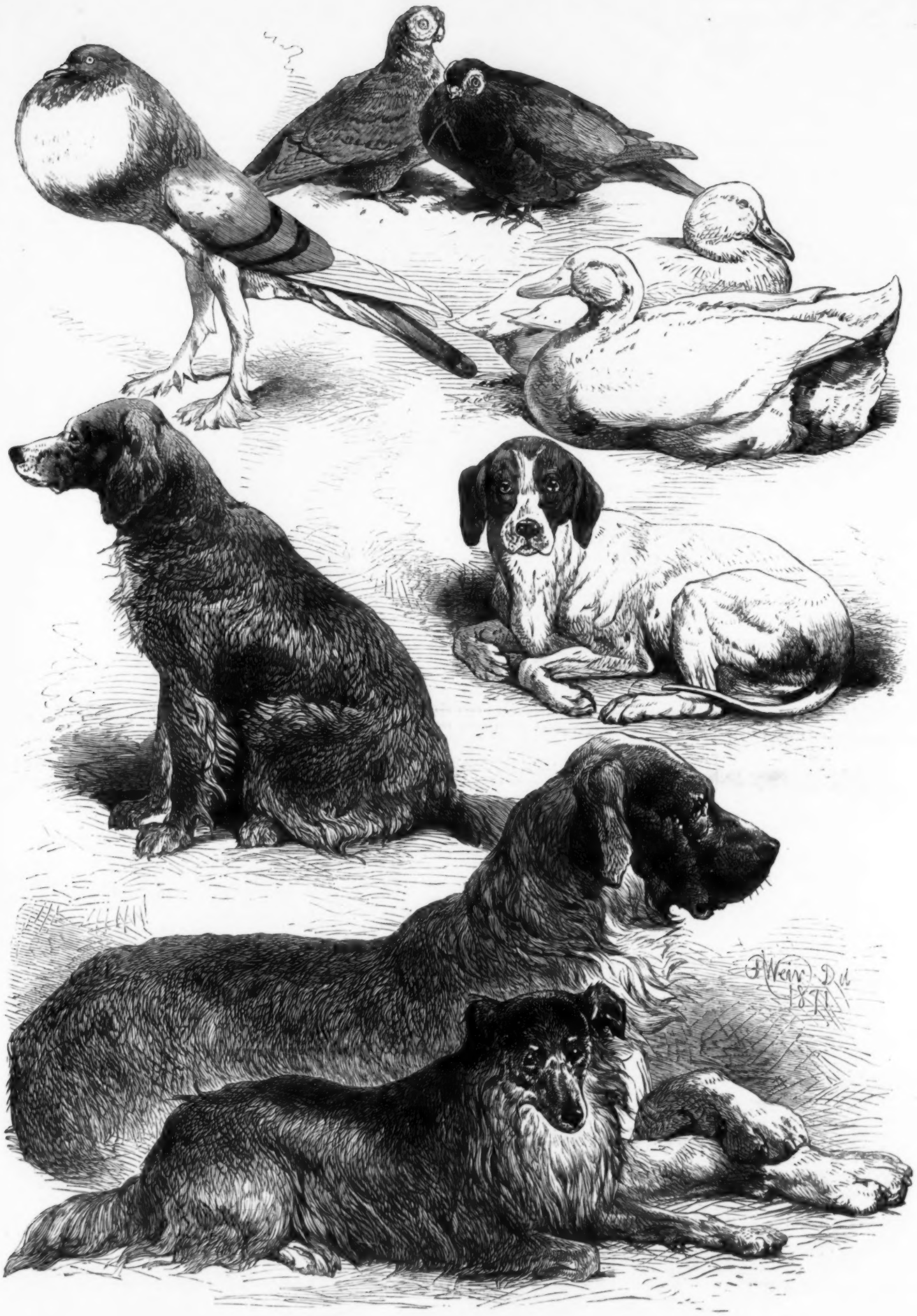
The twelfth yearly National Exhibition of sporting and other dogs held in Curzon Hall, Birmingham, during several days of last week, was one of the best yet known, about 900 dogs being admitted, which number would have been increased by upwards of 200 more had not some slight infractions of the rules of the committee rendered the entries which were tendered of no effect. The dogs were divided as usual into two classes, sporting and non-sporting. Among the former the most worthy of mention were the deerhounds, fox-terriers, setters of both kinds, and pointers; while among the latter the mastiffs, which were the best class ever exhibited, deserved more than ordinary notice.

In the bloodhound champion classes, Mr. C. E. Holford's celebrated dog Regent took the prize, and his Matchless gained the same honour for her owner in her class. Among the deerhounds, Mr. H. C. Muster's Torrum took the first prize and cup, Mr. J. H. Dawes's Warrior being second, and Mr. G. W. Hickman's Morni third. In the non-champion class of setters there were nearly thirty entries, comprising some very fair specimens. The first prize and cup fell to Mr. R. L. Purcell Llewellin's black and white dog Prince, and the second to Mr. G. W. Duff Assheton Smith's black and white ticked dog Dick, a great number being highly commended. The first prize and the silver cup for Irish setters were won by Mr. Vernon Cochrane, of Sale, Cheshire.

In the champion class of mastiffs Mr. C. Bathurst's Peveril took first prize, Mr. S. Hopkins's Wolf the second, while Mr. E. Nicholl's bitch Stella took the prize for her sex. The non-champion mastiff class for males was the best one in the show, and it is seldom that such an excellent collection of dogs is grouped together. Mr. E. Hanbury's Rajah took first prize, and Mr. T. G. Fermor Hesketh's Nero the second. Mr. M. B. Wynne's Monarch, Mr. Lindoe's Druid, Mr. Wynne's King II., Mr. J. Morley's Fred, Mr. J. F. Norris's Wallace, Mr. F. Lender's Turco, and Mrs. Cunliffe Lee's Monarch were highly commended. Among the bitches Mr. E. Hanbury's Queen, a splendidly made dark-brindled animal, took the first prize and the cup given for the best mastiff in all classes; his Phyllis being second, and Mr. Wynne's Empress was highly commended.

The Rev. J. C. Macdona's St. Bernard Alp took the prize for champion rough-coated dogs, and in the non-champion class Mr. F. Lender's Russ was the winner. Mr. Macdona's Monarque won the prize in the champion class for smooth-coated St. Bernards, and in the non-champion class his Jungfrau was first. The prize for Newfoundlands was awarded to the Rev. S. Atkinson's celebrated dog Cato, Mr. S. Nicholl's Grace Darling taking that in the bitch class.

The animals represented in our Illustrations are Mr. Purcell Llewellyn's champion first prize setter, Mr. Charles Bathurst's champion first prize mastiff, the Rev. J. Cumming Macdona's champion first prize St. Bernard, Mr. Vernon Cochrane's first prize Irish setter, Mr. J. Henshall's first prize sheep dog, Mr. E. Hancock's otter-hound, which gained a silver cup, and a pointer belonging to Mr. R. Hemming, jun., of Henley-in-Arden.



PRIZE POULTRY AND DOGS AT THE BIRMINGHAM SHOW.

PRIZE POULTRY AND DOGS AT THE BIRMINGHAM SHOW.

BIRTHS.

On the 3rd inst., at 27, Belgrave-square, the wife of H. Hussey Vivian, Esq., M.P., of a daughter.

At 33, Dover-street, the Countess of Mexborough, of a son.

At Castle Hyde, Fermoy, Ireland, Lady E. Becher, of a son.

On the 5th inst., the wife of George Beetham Batchelor, Esq., of 16, Essex-street, Strand, and York House, Worcester Park, Surrey, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 29th ult., at Wrighton, Somersetshire, by the Rev. H. M. Scarth, assisted by the Rev. T. Dowling, Thomas Boucher, of Hemingstone Hall, Suffolk, to Mary, only daughter of the late Rev. E. Collins, of Redhill, Somersetshire.

At the Church of St. James, Well, near Bedale, Colonel the Hon. William H. Herbert, youngest son of Edward, late Earl of Powis, to Miss Sybella Augusta Milbank, eldest daughter of Mr. M. W. Milbank, of Thorp Perrow, Bedale, Yorkshire.

DEATHS.

On the 5th inst., at Reigate, after a short illness, Lucy Jane, daughter of the late George Frederick Young, Esq.

On the 28th ult., at his residence in Malaga, Spain, after a protracted and painful illness, borne with fortitude and resignation, John Clemens, Esq., aged 65.

On the 5th inst., at Frimley Park, William Rookes Crompton Stansfield, Esq., of Esholt Hall, in the county of York, and Frimley Park, in the county of Surrey, aged 81.

On the 5th inst., at 74, Warwick-square, S.W., Hubert Charles Denison, youngest son of Robert Piggott Oldershaw, Esq., aged 6 months.

On the 25th ult., at 113, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin, of typhoid fever, Richard Patrick, "The MacGillycuddy of the Reeks," in his 22nd year.

At her house, Norfolk-street, Hyde Park, London, Harriette, widow of the late Colonel Cuff, of Deal Castle, Ireland, and granddaughter of Henry Irvine, of Kilmore, in the county of Tyrone. Her property descends to Henry Irvine, of Rosslare, in the county of Wexford, and Saint George Caulfield, of Dunamon, in the county of Galway, Esqs.

On the 28th ult., at Snaresbrook, Essex, Amelia Louisa Wilhelmina, wife of Henry Jacob Siffken, Esq., and daughter of the late Bernard William Held Baron de Wiederhold, of Hesse Cassel, General of Brigade in the Portuguese army, in her 68th year. Friends here and abroad will please accept this intimation.

On the 1st inst., at Nynehead Court, Edward Ayshford Sanford, Esq., aged 77.

At Ostend, Jane Charlotte, Baroness Weld.

At his residence, Essex-villas, Kensington, the Very Rev. Daniel Rock, D.D., aged 73.

At Edinburgh, Admiral Sir William Ramsay, K.C.B., aged 73.

At St. George's Lodge, Ryde, Isle of Wight, General Sir E. F. Norris, K.C.B., Colonel of the 49th Regiment, in his 80th year.

⁂ *The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.*

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 16.

SUNDAY, Dec. 10.—Second Sunday in Advent.
Divine Service: St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., the Rev. Dr. Irons, prebendary; 3.15 p.m., the Rev. Canon Liddon.
Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m., the Rev. Canon Prothero, M.A.; 3 p.m., the Very Rev. the Dean (Dr. Stanley).
Chapels Royal: St. James's, noon, the Rev. Canon Prothero, M.A., Rector of Whippingham. Whitehall, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., the Rev. William West Jones, B.D., Vicar of Summertown, Oxford. Savoy, 11.30 a.m., the Rev. Henry White, M.A., Chaplain of the Savoy and of the House of Commons; 7 p.m., the Rev. Dr. Mansell, Rector of Guildford and Rural Dean.
Temple Church, 11 a.m., the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, Master of the Temple; 3 p.m., the Rev. Alfred Ainger, M.A., Reader at the Temple.

MONDAY, 11.—Institute of Painters in Water Colours, opening of sixth winter exhibition.
London Institution Lecture, 4 p.m. (Prof. Huxley on Physiology of Sight).
Royal Academy Lecture, 8 p.m. (Mr. Partridge on Anatomy).
Royal Geographical Society, 8.30 p.m. (Mr. Keith Johnston on Wakefield's Map of East African Lake Region; Captain Burton, and others).
Society of Arts, Cantor Lecture, 8 p.m. (Mr. C. Haughton Gill on the Manufacture of Sugar). Medical Society, 8 p.m.
National Social Science Association, 8 p.m. (Discussion on the present State of the Co-operative Movement).
Russell Institution, 8 p.m. (concert).

TUESDAY, 12.—John, King of Saxony, born 1801. New moon, 4.1 a.m.
Eclipse of the sun, invisible at Greenwich.
Royal Horticultural Society, 10 a.m., examination of gardeners.
Royal Academy of Music; public rehearsal, 2 p.m.
Charterhouse, Founder's Day: Divine service 4 p.m.; dinner, 6 p.m.
St. Paul's Cathedral, lecture to young men, 8 p.m. (the Rev Canon Liddon).
Photographic Society, 8 p.m. (Lieutenant Abney on the Use of Albumen in Photography, &c.). Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30.
Civil Engineers' Institution, 8 p.m. (Discussion on "Stresses of Rigid Arches;" &c.)
Society of Arts, conference on the poor law, dispensary, and hospital (Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., in the chair).

WEDNESDAY, 13.—South Kensington Museum, lecture, 2.30 p.m. (Professor Duncan on Elementary Physiography). Royal Literary Fund, 3 p.m.
London Institution, 7 p.m. (Mr. Tegetmeier on the Carrier Pigeon).
Graphic Society, 8 p.m. Epidemiological Society, 8 p.m.
Society of Arts, 8 p.m. (Mr. Robert Johnston on the Esparto Plant).
Temple Church, special service, 8 p.m. (the Rev. J. Moorhouse, M.A.).
General Conference of Nonconformists on the Education question at Manchester (two days).
British Archæological Association, 8 p.m. (Mr. E. Roberts on Leominster Priory Church).

THURSDAY, 14.—Albert, Prince Consort of England, died, 1861.
Royal Society Club, 6 p.m. Royal Society, 8.30 p.m.
Society of Antiquaries, 8.30 p.m. (exhibition of stone implements; papers by Mr. A. W. Franks and Colonel Lane Fox).
Mathematical Society, 8 p.m. Westminster Play: "The Andrian," 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, 15.—Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 2 p.m.
Architectural Association, 7.30 p.m. (Mr. Florence on Rome beyond the Walls). Medical Society, 8 p.m.
Philological Society, 8.15 p.m. (Mr. Powell on Welsh Affixes and Prefixes).

SATURDAY, 16.—Cambridge Michaelmas Term ends.
Royal Horticultural Society, promenade, 2 p.m.
South Kensington Museum, lecture, 2.30 p.m. (Professor Duncan on Elementary Physiography). Home for Little Boys, election, noon.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE
FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 16.

Sunday.		Monday.		Tuesday.		Wednesday.		Thursday.		Friday.		Saturday.	
M	A	M	A	M	A	M	A	M	A	M	A	M	A
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
—	0 23	0 45	1 9	1 32	1 55	2 20	2 44	3 10	3 35	4 0	4 25	4 50	5 15

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE KEW OBSERVATORY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

Lat. 51° 28′ 6″ N.; Long. 0° 18′ 47″ W.; Height above Sea, 34 feet.

Day.		Daily Means of: Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Thermom.: Minimum, read at 10 A.M.	Maximum, read at 10 P.M.	Wind: General Direction.	Movement in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning.	Rain in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning.
		Inches.	°	°		0–10	°	°		Miles	
Nov.	29	29·842	36·4	32·5	·87	8	31·1	40·2	N. NNW.	314	·000
	30	29·804	36·2	32·2	·87	9	34·4	38·5	N.	588	·045
Dec.	1	30·013	39·3	30·2	·73	6	34·5	42·6	N. NNE.	325	·000
	2	30·229	34·8	29·9	·84	3	29·3	40·4	SSW. W. WNW.	128	·020
	3	..	..	..	..	..	31·5	39·2	WSW. NNW.	204	·000
	4	30·165	30·8	26·1	·85	3	28·5	34·8	NNW.	232	·000
	5	30·285	31·3	25·7	·82	3	23·8	35·3	NNW. W.	203	·000

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments for the above days, in order, at ten a.m.:—

Barometer (in inches) corrected ..	29·866	29·834	29·982	30·223	30·044	30·131	30·293
Temperature of Air	35·9°	36·2°	38·3°	32·4°	35·5°	31·2°	28·7
Temperature of Evaporation	34·6°	34·8°	35·1°	31·2°	34·8°	29·5°	27·2
Direction of Wind	N.	N.	N.	SSW.	W.	NNW	NNW

CHRISTMAS LECTURES.—ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, Albemarle-street, W.—PROFESSOR TYNDALL, LL.D., F.R.S., will deliver a Course of Six Lectures, adapted to a Juvenile Auditory, "On ICE, WATER, VAPOUR, and AIR," commencing on THURSDAY, DEC. 28, at 3 o'clock, to be continued on Dec. 30, 1871, Jan. 2, 4, 6, 9, 1872. Subscriptions to this Course, One Guinea (Children under sixteen, Half a Guinea); to all the Courses of the Season, Two Guineas.
November, 1871. H. BENCE JONES, Hon. Sec.

THE

CHRISTMAS DOUBLE NUMBER

OF THE

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

FOR 1871,

TO BE ISSUED ON DECEMBER 16,

WILL CONSIST OF

A LARGE COLOURED ENGRAVING,

ENTITLED

HOLIDAY TIME,

FROM A PAINTING BY J. HAYLLAR,

AND

TWO SHEETS AND A HALF

OF

CHRISTMAS PICTURES,

TALES, AND SKETCHES.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Among the Christmas Engravings will be the following:—

SURPRISED. Drawn by JOHN GILBERT.
A Two-Page Engraving.

THE FIRST WASSAIL CUP. Drawn by W. J. HENNESSY.
A Two-Page Engraving.

The Moated Grange. Drawn by S. Read.
For the Squire's Hall. By E. N. Downard.
The Ancestral Portrait. By E. N. Downard.
The Compliments of the Season. By A. Hunt.
The First Snowball. By H. Petherick.
A Christmas Welcome. By E. Hughes.
The Village Choir at Rehearsal. By M. W. Ridley.
Going to the Dance. By F. Barnard.
A Christmas Dance a Long Time Ago. By C. J. Staniland.

NEWS ENGRAVINGS.

Prize Cattle and Sheep at the Smithfield Club Cattle Show. (Two Illustrations.)
The Fire at Warwick Castle, seen from the Bridge.
Lord Leigh Laying the Foundation-Stone for the Extension of the Queen's Hospital at Birmingham.
Leith Pier on Fire.
The Loss of the Rangoon. (Two Illustrations.)

TALES AND SKETCHES.

The Coffee Merchant. A New Arabian Nights' Tale. (With Illustrations.) By R. H. Horne, author of "Orion," &c.
Surprised. By Annie Thomas (Mrs. Pender Cudlip).
The Bell Buoy. A Blind Man's Story. By W. W. Fenn.
Christmas Eve at Penrydin.
Pan's Wand. (Illustrated.) By R. Garnett.
Christmas in High Latitudes.
&c. &c. &c.

Price of the Christmas Double Number, One Shilling; or, by Post, One Shilling and a Halfpenny.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements for the Christmas Double Number must be sent in before Noon on Wednesday, the 13th inst. The lowest charge for an Advertisement—not exceeding four lines (about thirty words)—in the Christmas Number will be Twelve Shillings; and for every additional line (averaging ten words) the charge will be Three Shillings.

OFFICE, 198, STRAND, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. B. Chatterton.—Triumphant success. Free list suspended.—Last Six Nights—On MONDAY, DEC. 11, and during the Week, her Majesty's servants will perform a laughable Farce, THE WRONG MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE, in which the celebrated Vokes Family will appear. After which will be produced, at a quarter to Eight, a new romantic and spectacular Drama, entitled REBECCA, founded on Sir Walter Scott's celebrated novel of "Ivanhoe," adapted by Andrew Halliday. Characteristic scenery by William Beverley. With the following powerful cast:—Mr. Phelps, Messrs. J. B. Howard, E. Rosenthal, J. Dewhurst, W. MacIntyre, B. Egan, W. Terris, S. Dynely, J. Francis, Delman, Bruton; Miss Neilson, Misses Mattie Reinhardt, Fanny Addison, Kathleen Ryan, &c. Fanciful Ballet and Grand Tournament, with real horses and 300 auxiliaries, arranged by John Cormack. The overture and incidental music selected and composed by W. C. Levey, and the Drama produced under the direction of Mr. Edward Stirling. To conclude with a new Farce, by Martin Beecher, entitled No. 6, DUKE-STREET. Doors open at half-past Six, commence at Seven. Prices from 6d. to 4 gs. Box-Office open from Ten till Five daily.

MISS NEILSON has the honour to announce her BENEFIT will take place—under Royal patronage—on MONDAY, DEC. 18, when will be performed Shakspeare's Play of AS YOU LIKE IT—Jacques, Mr. F. C. King; Orlando, Mr. J. B. Howard; Celia, Miss Fanny Addison; Rosalind, Miss Neilson. After which the Fourth Act of Lord Lytton's Play of THE LADY OF LYONS—Claude Melnotte, Mr. H. Neville (by permission of B. Shepherd, Esq.); Pauline Deschapelles, Miss Neilson. The performance to commence with THE WRONG MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE, in which the celebrated Vokes Family will appear; and conclude with the Farce of NO. 6, DUKE-STREET. Box-Office open from Ten to Five daily.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.—This Evening, SATURDAY, and during Next Week, will be produced a New and Original Mythological Comedy, entitled PYGMALION AND GALATEA, by W. S. Gilbert. Messrs. Kendal, Howe, Buckstone; Mesdames Robertson, Chippendale, C. Hill, Merton. Box-Office from Ten till Five.

ASTLEY'S GRAND AMPHITHEATRE.—Positively the Last Week of the Grand and Original Spectacle, THE LAST OF THE RACE. The establishment will positively close after Saturday, Dec. 16, for the production of the Grand Christmas Pantomime. Grand MIDDAY PERFORMANCES on WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at Two o'Clock. Doors Open at 1.30. Box-Office open daily from One till Four, by Mr. Drysdale.

NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.—Mr. T. Swinbourne, Mr. Henry Marston, and Mrs. Hermann Vezin in a Legitimate Play Every Evening. Great preparations for the Grand Pantomime, called "Harlequin Aladdin; or, The Wonderful Lamp." Gorgeous scenery and costumes.

HENGLER'S GRAND CIRQUE, Argyll-street, Regent-street.—Brilliant Success of a Legitimate Circus Entertainment.—John Milton Hengler, Prince of Tight-Rope Artistes; Miss Jenny Hengler, the admired Equestrienne; James Lloyd, the dashing; Myers, the great vaulter; Mdlle. Caroline, the admirable rider, and a host of others. Every Evening. Open at 7.15; commence at 7.45. Grand Day Performances every Wednesday and Saturday, open at Two. Grand Special Day Representation, Monday Next, Dec. 11. In preparation, and will be produced on Monday, Dec. 18, an exquisite and elaborately-mounted Christmas Spectacle.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Bateman.—Every Evening, at Seven, MY TURN NEXT—Mr. George Belmore; at Eight, the Drama, in Three Acts, by Leopold Lewis, entitled THE BELLS, adapted from "The Polish Jew," a dramatic study by MM. Erckmann-Chatrian. Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. F. Hall, Mr. F. W. Irish, Mr. H. Crellin, Miss G. Pauncefort, and Miss Fanny Heywood. The Music composed and arranged by M. E. Singla, Chef d'Orchestre of the Théâtre Cluny, Paris, who is (by the kind permission of M. Larochelle) specially engaged for this piece, and will conduct the orchestra. Scenery by Hawes Craven and H. Cuthbert. The whole produced under the immediate direction of Mr. H. L. Bateman. To conclude with PICKWICK (in Three Acts)—Messrs. George Belmore, Henry Irving, Addison, Gaston Murray, F. Hall, Odell, Irish, Dyas, Branscombe, and H. Crellin; Mesdames M. Hill, Leigh, Ewell, Lafontaine, and Kate Manor. Doors open at half-past Six; commence at Seven. Box-Office open daily from Ten till Five.

THE BELLS.—Unprecedented Success of the great Psychological Drama THE BELLS, pronounced by the Press with startling unanimity the greatest and most legitimate novelty of modern times.

THE BELLS.—Mr. HENRY IRVING as MATHIAS. The Press is unanimous in pronouncing Mr. Henry Irving's interpretation of the extraordinary character of Mathias, in "The Bells," as among the very highest efforts of the actor's art. The "Times" says:—"Decidedly the full measure of his deserts was never known until Saturday night." The "Pall Mall Gazette" says:—"Acting at once so intelligent and so intense has not been seen on the London stage for many years."

ST. JAMES'S HALL, Piccadilly.—Messrs. G. W. Moore and Frederick Burgess, Sole Lessees. The CHRISTYS Every Night at Eight. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays at Three and Eight, all the year round. The charming and sparkling Entertainment of the CHRISTY MINSTRELS (Messrs. Moore and Burgess, Proprietors). Seventh Year in one uninterrupted Season, without the intermission of a night—Sundays, Good Fridays, and Christmas Days alone excepted—an instance of popularity never before known in the history of the world's amusements, the more especially when it is borne in mind how the Proprietors have had to contend against the use of their title by those not possessing a vestige of claim thereto.
The public residing in the various provincial towns of the United Kingdom should note that the Christy Minstrels of St. James's Hall never have performed, never will perform, out of London, appearing only at their own hall every Night at Eight; Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays Three and Eight; all the year round. Private Boxes, 2 gs. and 2½ gs.; Fauteuils, 5s.; Sofa Stalls, 3s.; Area (raised seats), 2s.; the New Gallery, 1s. Doors open for the Day Performances at Half-past Two; Evening, ditto, at Half-past Seven. No fees of any description. Ladies can retain their bonnets in all parts of the Hall. Tickets and Places may be secured at the Hall daily from Nine a.m. till Six p.m.

MADAME SAINTON-DOLBY'S VOCAL ACADEMY. Madame Sainton-Dolby begs to announce that her Academy for the Training of Professional Vocalists (Ladies only) for Oratorios and the Concert-room, will open shortly after Christmas. Prospectuses on application at her residence, 71, Gloucester-place, Hyde Park, W.; or at Mr. George Dolby's Office, 52, New Bond-street.

HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.—Miss ELIZABETH NEWMAN has pleasure in announcing that, at her DRAMATIC READING, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, the 13th, Herr Carl Hause will Perform some Solos on the Pianoforte. Tickets, 5s. and 3s. each, of Mr. Mitchell, Old Bond-street; the principal Ticket Offices; and of Mr. Hall, at the Rooms. Admission, 1s.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL. Conductor, Sir Michael Costa.—On FRIDAY, DEC. 15, will be performed Mendelssohn's ATHALIE and Beethoven's MOUNT OF OLIVES. Principal Vocalists—Madame Cora de Wilhorst, Miss Sofia Vinta, Mdlle. Drasdil, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. Mr. Henry Nicholls will recite the illustrative verses of "Athalie." Tickets, now ready, 3s., 5s., and 10s. 6d., at 6, Exeter Hall. The Christmas Performances of THE MESSIAH, DEC. 22 and 29.

LAST REPRESENTATIONS OF "A PECULIAR FAMILY."
MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT, entitled A PECULIAR FAMILY, written by William Brough, and ECHOES OF THE OPERA, by Mr. Corney Grain. Every Evening (except Saturday) at Eight.—ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent-street. Admission, 1s., 2s., 3s., and 5s.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS. The WINTER EXHIBITION of SKETCHES and STUDIES is now OPEN, at their Gallery, 5, Pall-mall East. Ten till Five. Admission, 1s. Gas.
ALFRED D. FRIPP, Secretary.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS. The SIXTH WINTER EXHIBITION of SKETCHES and STUDIES by the Members will OPEN on MONDAY NEXT, the 11th inst.—Galleries, 53, Pall-Mall.
JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

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—			Fast. 1 2 3	1 2 3	Fast. 1 2	Fast. 1 2	1 2 3	Fast. 1 2 3	Fast. 1 2 3	Fast. 1 2	1 2 3
			a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
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Chelsea ..	"	..	—	7.30	9.40	11.22	11.22	1.29	3.45	3.45	6.22
Clapham Junction ..		..	6.59	7.54	9.59	11.49	11.49	2. 9	4. 9	—	6.59
London Bridge	"	..	7. 0	8. 9	10. 0	11.50	11.50	2. 5	4.10	5. 5	7. 0
Portsmouth	Arrive	..	9.40	11.55	12.55	2. 5	3. 5	4.50	6.32	7.20	10.20
Ryde ..	"	..	10.40	12.40	1.45	2.45	4.25	5.40	7.15	B	—
Sandown ..	"	..	11.26	1.21	2.29	3.29	5.21	6.31	8. 4	B	—
Shanklin ..	"	..	11.30	1.29	2.36	3.36	5.28	6.38	8.10	B	—
Wroxall ..	"	..	11.40	1.36	2.43	3.44	5.35	6.45	8.16	B	—
Ventnor ..	"	..	11.47	1.42	2.50	3.50	5.42	6.52	8.22	B	—
Cowes ..	"	..	1.15	1.15	3. 5	3. 5	5.25	..	..	..	—
Newport ..	"	..	1.55	1.55	3.25	3.25	5.55	..	..	..	—

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1871.

We imagine that the reward which, as readers of history know, was given to a distinguished personage "because he had not despaired of the Republic," will not be earned by any of the notorious personages who are at present endeavouring to preach the Republic in England. Endeavouring, we say, for they seldom appear to succeed in delivering themselves of all the valuable sentiments which they desire to inculcate. The audiences, or, rather, the spectators, have evidently thought out the question for themselves, and have come to the conclusion that the arguments are unworthy of further consideration. This opinion they signify in a condensed form, of which rotten eggs, sound stones, and shouting and singing are the exponents. We unaffectedly regret this, not because the agitation in question deserves much more respectful treatment, but because anything like physical violence and mob dictation is altogether detestable. We read with extreme disgust that the Republican spouters are pelted, and have to escape by back doors. *Non defensoribus istis.*

Nor, if this need be said, do we attach the least moral value to the support which mobs are at present pleased to give to the institutions of the country. Their attitude is a novelty, but it is not a desirable one. It would be absurd to suppose that the fellows who pelt Citizens Odger and Dilke with foul missiles are inspired by anything but a savage or, at the best, half-humorous wish for sport which can be safely practised on a minority. We hope that no fervent Conservative will be foolish enough to surmise for a moment that such treatment of the agitators indicates the least regard for the Constitution, or to write, in a touching and gushing style, that "these poor, rough fellows have a coarse and yet a creditable sense of what they owe to the Star of Brunswick and the House of Guelph." We have merely a totally unnecessary proof that the lower class of the community like a "row" as much as ever. By accident they happen to testify on the right side; but we should with as little emotion have seen them exciting themselves on the wrong side, their departure from which we regard as unnatural. Anyhow, we do not want ignorance and violence arrayed on the side of institutions intended to correct the one and suppress the other. The egg-and-stone may have the leave and license of all good citizens to go over, en masse, and range themselves under the banners of Citizens Dilke and Odger. We are utterly and entirely ungrateful for outrages of any kind; but, if there are to be any, we greatly prefer that they should be committed in behalf of the cause which is in itself an outrage.

It is not unamusing to observe, however, that when the rough classes wage war with agitation they receive a very different character from that which was awarded to them when they rioted in the interests of progress and enlightenment. Did we write unamusing? The word should be withdrawn. We ought to be shocked to hear the language which is now applied to "our own flesh and blood." When Citizen Dilke was interrupted at Birmingham the other night, the chairman asked him to sit down for a minute while coercive measures should be employed to repress the interrupters. "The police," cried Mr. Wright, chairman of the Liberal Association (and Mr. Dixon and Mr. Muntz heard the words and protested not), "have turned out fifty of the rascals, and, if you will sit down, they will turn out the rest!" Fifty of the rascals! Do we dispute the accuracy of the respected chairman's definition? Certainly not. We have no particularly strong doubt that he spoke fittingly. But the roughs were not called rascals when they broke down the railings in the park and fought the police, any more than the Conservatives called them rascals when they made a riot after the Solicitor-General's election at Dover. In the former case they were termed an indignant people enraged at tyranny, and in the latter case we read—the words are before us—that "the Dover working men appeared to have been so annoyed at their defeat that they smashed the windows of various premises belonging to the supporters of the Government candidate." The rail-breakers and window-smashers were not called rascals when their rascality was supposed to have some kind of party value. Is it not a little hard upon the demonstrative rough that his proceedings should bear a different character in London, at Dover, and at Birmingham?

But the Republic does not prosper in its own halls. Here there is no violence except of diction—we do not lay much stress upon desks being shattered by the blows of stalwart orators—but the leading Radicals quarrel among themselves and abuse one another in the most unsparing terms. We alluded—or, rather, we deprecated, the other day, an allusion—to the newspaper which was to educate the people into Republicanism, and which was enabled to come out only by the aid of a raffle for a blanket. It seems that the nation was deceived on this subject. A fiery Republican has denounced the baseness which revealed this anecdote, and he added, with laudable precision of detail, that the revealer had told "a lie"—for "the blanket was a quilt." A graphic reporter has visited the "Hole in the Wall," and he found that in that awful den of Republicanism—that lair in which the democratic lion mangles his prey—that frightful hold at the mention of which within earshot of Windsor the Round Tower ought to tremble—the attendance is very small, and the proceedings would be very dull if merry female Republicans did not enliven the scene by tossing with their husbands and friends for glasses of humble but refreshing stimulants, thereby actually taxing themselves to sustain the Monarchy which they meet to subvert. We think that such Republicans ought rather to be encouraged than the reverse. Such a Republic as theirs reminds one of Horace Walpole's friend's description of one of the London earthquakes: "It was so tame that you might have patted it."

The demonstrations of the unfortunate Republicans are legitimate matter for mirth, and it will be the fault of "over-earnest" persons if such things ever assume a form which shall render mirth no longer possible. It is most desirable that such exhibitions should be noticed, not for their own sake, but because they may convey a lesson to "over-earnest" persons, in or out of office, of the folly of appealing for political judgments to those who are incapable of any sort of judgment. Let it not be forgotten by those who propose to change the nature of any of our institutions (we do not refer to idiotic talk of Republicanism, but to what is sometimes called progress, and is the reverse) that the wisdom of our ancestors bade the educated make laws for the uneducated. We may get a hint from the Republican programme as to the probable result of a reversal of that arrangement, and the bidding the ignorant make laws for the instructed.

"THE HOUR BUT NOT THE MAN."

It is seldom that a picture tells its story less obtrusively than the pleasant work which we have engraved from the exhibition at the New British Institution, Old Bond-street. It is seldomer still that any pictorial suggestions of lovers and love-making are made so delicately, simply, and naturally, and with such entire freedom from sham sentimentality. In common gallantry one must sympathise with these young ladies' anxiety, yet there is nothing so serious implied that we may not enjoy the humour of the situation; for is it not a perverse tendency of human nature, in young and old alike, covertly to take delight in the sentimental distresses of others? The scene of the picture is, as we see, the exterior of a modest, old-fashioned country residence—a cottage somewhere in Devonshire, we suspect, for in that most rural of counties the artist, we understand, has been sketching lately. At the crazy wicket of the entrance grow laurels, whose height and gnarled branches tell of great age, and the thick foliage of which, meeting in an arch overhead, form a natural porch of the most picturesque description. It is summer-time, but the sun never penetrates through this umbrageous canopy, and only sparingly elsewhere—straggling through other foliage and flowers—chequers the outer fence and the wall of the cottage within. Of the inmates of the embowered seclusion of this rustic dwelling we know nothing beyond the visible fact that among the number are two very pretty girls—the one fair, bashful, and retiring, standing in a rather disconsolate attitude at the threshold of the inner door; the other a "nut-brown maid," impulsive and saucy, coming out to peep beneath the laurel shade for the expected one. Are they sisters? are they rivals? Our theory is that the fair girl's heart is the more deeply engaged, though she does not betray impatience so plainly. The dark girl, with the piquant crimson hat and the sacque and petticoat of the last century (which we suppose are next coming into fashion, now that "Dolly Vardens" are going out), we take to be a visitor and confidante, though she may, perchance, prove a dangerous competitor too. But *he* cometh not: the "hour" has arrived, "but not the man." What sort of man can he be if he can resist such attractions? or, rather, what insurmountable obstacle, or accident delays his keeping the tryst at these fairies' bower? Footsteps, we think, have been heard, but they have passed, and now the confidante, no longer capable of controlling her natural curiosity, and preceded by the sagaciously inquisitive King Charles, steps to the entrance-gate. But there is blank disappointment in her countenance—the man is not yet in sight. Of what a tearful scolding and what a blissful reconciliation await him, when he does make his appearance, the picture telleth not; and we cannot, of course, pretend to lift the veil of futurity.

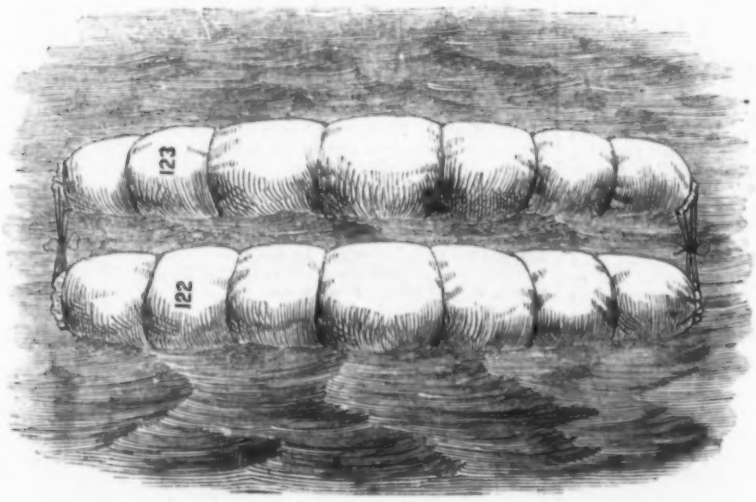
The painter of this picture, which is remarkable for its rich colouring and effect of sunlight and shade, is Mr. T. W. Holyoake, who for several years was the teacher in the painting school of the Royal Academy. On his resignation of that appointment, not long ago, the students who were then or had been under his care, some of whom had already risen to eminence, gave him a handsome testimonial in recognition of his efficiency and zeal. Since his retirement from the Academy, Mr. Holyoake, who is still comparatively young, has undertaken works of more importance than his previous engagements permitted him to attempt, and he promises soon to take a prominent position in our school.

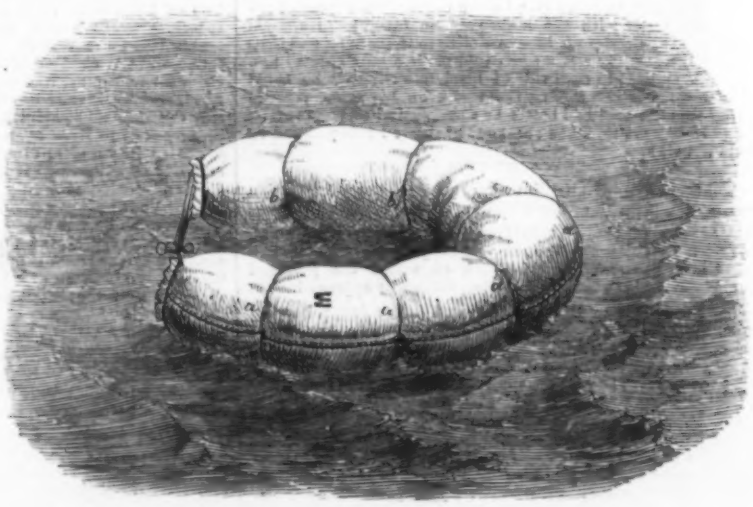
"THE HOUR BUT NOT THE MAN," BY MR. HOLYOAKE.
IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE NEW BRITISH INSTITUTION.

MR. JOHN RUSKIN.

The election of Mr. Ruskin to be Lord Rector of St. Andrew's University is an occasion upon which it seems fit to publish an Engraving of his portrait. His recent act of munificence too, in giving £5000 for the endowment of a teacher of drawing at the University of Oxford, commends him afresh to public esteem. But he has been known more than a quarter of a century, to all who take any interest in literature or in the fine arts, as one of the great English writers of this age, and as the expounder of views in art-criticism which have claimed a large share of attention. He has latterly come forward also in the character of a social reformer, discussing the most urgent problems of industrial economy and commercial morality with a great deal of confidence in the truth of his avowed doctrines and schemes for the world's amendment. It is not our purpose here to dispute or to assent to any of Mr. Ruskin's propositions, either with regard to labour and capital, trade and manufacture, wages and prices, or with regard to the merits and faults of this or that style in painting, in architecture, or in sculpture. He is a high-minded, benevolent, earnest, and accomplished man, who strives to do good, to know and speak the truth, to cultivate the perception of beauty, for the glory of the Creator and for the happiness of mankind. As one who has diligently sought, all his life long, the best lore of Nature and Humanity, his career is an example to the scholar, perhaps even more valuable than his express communications as a teacher.

Mr. Ruskin was born, we believe, in February, 1819, the son of a London merchant, but of a Scottish family; and his early years were divided between his father's town house, near Brunswick-square, lengthened visits to an aunt at Perth, and a residence in the fair city of Florence during some part of his boyhood. He was afterwards entered as a gentleman-commoner at Christ Church College, Oxford, where, in 1839, he won the Newdigate prize for English poetry. Having taken his degree, he devoted himself to the study of art, under the instruction of Copley Fielding and J. D. Harding. He was soon fascinated by the works of J. M. W. Turner, and began writing a pamphlet, which grew into a volume, to prove that Turner's pictures, and others of the English school, were better of their kind than the most-admired foreign examples of landscape art. This first volume appeared in 1843, under the title of "Modern Painters; their Superiority in the Art of Land-





REAR-ADMIRAL RYDER'S FLOATING HAMMOCKS FOR SAVING LIFE AT SEA.

scape-Painting to All the Ancient Masters, by an Oxford Graduate." The eloquence of its style, the refinement of feeling, the noble tone of sacred enthusiasm, and the poetical imagination that characterised this book, at once gained a multitude of readers. It quickly passed through four or five large editions; while the author studied in Italy, Germany, and Switzerland every picturesque feature of mountain and forest, river, lake, and sky; every remnant of antique dignity in the old cities, and of mediæval sincerity in the old churches of the Continent, with all the famous European collections of paintings and sculpture. In 1846 he produced the second volume of his work, still bearing the title of "Modern Painters," though it related chiefly to the early Tuscan and Umbrian artists who preceded Raphael, and to the Venetian school. "The Seven Lamps of Architecture," followed by "The Stones of Venice," was a development of his æsthetic and ethical principles in their application to a different art, mingled with interesting reflections upon the historic past. The third volume of "Modern Painters," which came out next, was an attempt to connect his views of excellence in the fine arts, and of the interpretation of natural beauty and sublimity, with the doctrines of moral and mental philosophy which he proclaimed. Two more volumes, completing the series, have since appeared, which deal more with technicalities of art. About the year 1851 Mr. Ruskin made himself the literary advocate of the so-called "Pre-Raphaelite" school of painters, to which Millais and Holman Hunt were then reputed to belong; and from that time he began occasionally to lecture, in Edinburgh and in London, upon subjects of this kind, and to write criticisms upon the yearly exhibitions of the Royal Academy. His essays in this direction are too numerous to be here mentioned. His treatises on social reform, "Unto This Last," "Sesame and Lilies," "The Crown of Wild Olive," and "Time and Tide by Wear and Tyne," with a tract on Church reform, called "Notes on the Construction of Sheepfolds," are within the recollection of most readers. He has held the Rode's Lectureship at the University of Cambridge; at Oxford, the Slade Lectureship of Fine Arts; and some of his lectures have been published. He has received from both Universities the honorary degree of D.C.L.

The portrait of Mr. Ruskin is after a photograph by Messrs. W. and D. Downey, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

LIFE-SAVING CORK MATTRESSES.

A proposal has been submitted to the Admiralty for the use of hammock mattresses stuffed with granulated cork, instead of hair mattresses, on board the ships of the Royal Navy, with a view to saving life in case of shipwreck or of the vessel sinking from any cause. Rear-Admiral A. P. Ryder and Captain J. R. Ward, both members of the council of the Royal National Life Boat Institution, have taken the lead in recommending this improvement. Cork mattresses of two different patterns have been sent by the Admiralty to the Channel Fleet, to be tried for comfort; their buoyancy needs no trial. They have already been adopted by the Russian navy. As a matter of economy, the cork is less than half the price of the horsehair. The cork being granulated by machinery, and the grains being of equal size, after the dust is removed, with rib pieces inserted to prevent the cork moving, the mattresses are found quite comfortable to sleep on. A mattress thus made will, when stuffed with 11 lb. of granulated cork, have a buoyancy of 60 lb.—that is to say, it will float an iron weight of that amount. After twenty-four hours of immersion, 4 ft. under water, the buoyancy of the cork mattress has been found to be very slightly diminished. The hammock and blanket, although they weigh from 7 lb. to 8 lb., require less than half a pound of cork to float them, leaving about 58 lb. of buoyancy, sufficient to float three men with their clothes on, and with their collar-bones just above water, keeping their arms as much as possible under water, and of course not attempting to mount the hammock. One man, if alone, would be floated with his arms, shoulders, and chest above water. If two hammocks are lashed or "toggled" together, either before or after the men are in the water, the latter can float between them with an arm over each hammock; and it will be found that the two hammocks can be steered by the hands in the water over and outside the hammocks, while the raft is propelled by the feet away from the sinking ship. Six men, if they are self-possessed, and have been exercised in "hammock floating drill," could be supported by two hammocks; but of course there would be ordinarily only two men to each couple of hammocks. In a heavy breaking sea, the best way for the men to secure themselves from being washed away from the hammocks should be the subject of experiment; also how best to protect themselves from the blows of the breaking sea. A single man will probably best support himself by the aid of his hammock if he secures the ends together and places himself in the middle. Although the buoyancy is, as has already been said, enough to support three men if necessary, yet this will only be the case if they preserve their presence of mind, and do not attempt to raise themselves out of the water sufficiently to immerse the hammock. If the lashing has eight turns, one man should place himself between the second and third turns outside, another between the fourth and fifth inside, and the third between the sixth and seventh outside, so as to separate them as much as possible: the worst swimmer or a wounded man might be placed in the inside berth. The hammock-ends should be so secured that the lashing be outside, as the drawing the ends of the hammock together will then tighten the lashing. When a man inside the circle of his hammock, after having lashed the ends together, sees no immediate prospect of assistance, he will begin, no doubt, to think how he can continue to support himself in the water with the least possible fatigue. He could easily cut the nettles of the clews close to the canvas, and if he knotted the nettles together he could make a long meshed net, in which, secured to each side of his hammock-raft, he could sit with comfort and relieve the strain on his arms, remembering that the seat had better be sufficiently low under water not to raise more than the chest out of it. In this position he could not sink.

The Southampton guardians have resolved to try Australian beef for the inmates of the workhouse.

Meetings of the shareholders in the North British and Caledonian Railways were held, yesterday week, in Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively, at both of which the proposed amalgamation between the two companies was approved.

Sir David Baxter, Bart., the flax and jute spinner, has signified his affection for his native town, Dundee, by another magnificent gift. On Thursday week, at a meeting of the Royal Infirmary directors, it was announced that Sir David intended to erect and maintain in all time coming a convalescent hospital which would give accommodation to sixty patients. The gift, it is calculated, will involve an expenditure on the part of Sir David of from £20,000 to £30,000. Recently he gave a public park to the inhabitants, which cost between £30,000 and £40,000; and his contributions to various philanthropic objects cannot be less than £100,000.

MEMBERS OUT OF PARLIAMENT.

Sometimes there stands out of the general body of young members, with whom we have elected principally to deal in this place, one or another who may be accepted as of the class which is conventionally called the golden youth. They are of that order which helps to make up the inevitable crowd that is in its place from five to six o'clock, and then disperses, to reappear about ten, clothed in soft raiment and fine linen; and so seem to indicate that they fare sumptuously every day, and are regular guests at good men's feasts. Such a one is Mr. Henry Wyndham West, whose ease—not to say confidence—of manner, and the position he takes in the House, entitle him to all the consideration which may be supposed to be due to his political species. There is a semi-cynical rumour that, whatever in the way of preferment happens to be going, he is an irrepressible candidate; and if this is so, to a certain extent he proves the value of the saying that "he who asks shall have;" though it is not necessary here to mention particularly what he has received. As a member he is a very fair skirmisher; is ready of speech, though not voluble; and sufficiently dogmatic to give the idea that he has more in him than he chooses to develop. Last Session he made quite a display with an ingenious and very authoritative argument against the appointment of a public prosecutor. He tried a candidature, unsuccessfully, at Ipswich, in 1865, was returned in 1868, and already assumes the air of an experienced and arbitrating member; and no doubt, the other day, he gave his constituents a good taste of his quality. The borough of Kidderminster has, in bygone times, been rather remarkable for having experiments made on it by divers candidates; and the inhabitants, it is believed, electoral as well as non-electoral, distinguished themselves once on a time by driving Mr. Lowe, not only out of its representation, but bodily and very forcibly out of the town. After many trials of representatives, at the last election it settled down upon a local candidate, which is an indication that the constituency is not so much in a state of unrest, and that they have got a man who has caught their sympathies; for no gentleman living in the place would probably have trusted himself to the electors unless he was sure that they had finally given up the playful habit of throwing brickbats at candidates. So far as he has gone in the House, though that is not much, Mr. Lea, the present member for Kidderminster, has shown reasons why he was chosen, for on one occasion he not only made a very good speech, but, as a Liberal and supporter of the Government, he took a very independent course. When recently he met his constituents all seemed to go smoothly, and so there is no more to be said.

There is a special reason why we place Admiral Erskine amongst the young members, and it is that on one occasion he ridiculed the idea of some Admiral being too old for service, and sought to make out his case by saying emphatically that the naval hero in question was his own naval educator, pastor, and master. Now, as Admiral Erskine is sixty-five years old, the question is, did he by this argument make out his case for the employment of his preceptor and friend? The gallant Admiral himself is a good specimen of that nautical class which, if we were speaking of ordinary seamen, we should call sea-dogs. He looks and talks the sailor, and is, one is certain, a kindly, sincere friend and a genial companion. Though he does not look like an author, he is one, having written a work relating his experiences during a cruise in the Western Pacific. Having very well represented Stirlingshire in one Parliament, he has been, doubtless, when lately addressing them, evincing to his electoral friends that he is doing his best satisfactorily to represent them in another. Many people would, perhaps, be glad to have the political designation of a "Moderate Liberal" defined. Some of the gentlemen who so style themselves, when they come to expound their political creed, seem to declare on as liberal a programme as those who call themselves Radicals. These reflections have been called up by a consideration of a recent speech of Mr. Isaac Fletcher, the member for Cockermouth since 1868, for he has deliberately set himself down in the chronicles of memberdom as a "Moderate Liberal," and yet he pronounces approvingly of many things which, perhaps, a "Moderate" would pause at. Thus, he is ready for the Ballot and such like very liberal measures. But in due time he seemed to fix the point at which Liberalism that is moderate stops, and that would seem to be at Sir Charles Dilke. For Mr. Fletcher is decidedly in favour of our Constitutional Monarchy, even though it costs £385,000 a year, which, he says, is only about 3d. per head, or about the cost of a pint of beer per annum for each entity of the population, and that may be said to have settled the question. This honourable gentleman is a quiet but assiduous member, and his being returned by people amidst whom he lives is, as we think, a test of his qualification to be their representative.

Of course, in having a word or two with Mr. Crum-Ewing, we get out of the category of young members, for he is now a veteran as Parliament men go nowadays. But there is at least one observation which he made in a recent speech to his constituents at Paisley which is delightfully characteristic. Himself a Scotchman, he sees a remarkably astute policy in the Government in their selecting Scotch members for offices wherein the faculty of saving can be exercised; and next to the foreign policy of the Ministry, which he considers to be wise and good, he seems to be of opinion that the wisest things they have done is to appoint Mr. Baxter and Mr. Henry Campbell to posts where they can nationally distinguish themselves, the probable result being, according to him, a reduction of some millions.

It may be remembered that when Mr. Morley and Mr. Kirkman Hodgson attended the Liberal gathering in celebration of Colston at Bristol, they excused themselves for not speechifying at length by saying that they would reserve themselves for a coming intercommunication between themselves and the electors of the ancient city which had chosen them for its representatives. This promise has been duly fulfilled, and Mr. Morley has delivered himself in that practical, earnest, and thoughtful manner which always characterises him; but as to Mr. Hodgson, it seemed as if he had imbued himself with an after-dinner speech for the Colston festivity, and, having suppressed it then, let it off at the dry-lipped meeting, and really, it would seem, with excellent effect. Personally he is always genial, both in look and manner; and on this occasion he was happy in mixing up good sense with good jokes, and verified the proverb which says that there is no reason why the truth should not be told pleasantly, and even through the medium of a jest. On the whole, it may well be supposed that the Bristolians consider themselves very well represented. At any rate, on that occasion, when they interviewed their members, they gave palpable signs of thinking so.

Mr. Alderman Joseph Cowen, M.P for Newcastle-on-Tyne has been offered a knighthood by the Premier in recognition of his services as chairman of the River Tyne Commissioners.

Yesterday week the annual election of Mayors took place in Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Clonmel, and Kilkenny. The new Mayors avowed themselves advocates of home rule and denominational education.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will of the Right Hon. Lady Anne Beckett, relict of the Right Hon. Sir John Beckett, Bart., P.C., F.R.S., M.P. for Leeds 1835-7, some time Judge-Advocate-General, was proved in her Majesty's Court of Probate on the 28th ult., and the personalty sworn under £45,000. Her Ladyship was the third daughter of William, first Earl of Lonsdale, K.G., and Lady Augusta Fane, eldest daughter of John, ninth Earl of Westmoreland, G.C.B., and attained the great age of eighty-two, leaving no issue. Her Ladyship's will bears date April 1, 1870, and she died, on the 8th ult., at her residence, 11, Stratford-place, Oxford street. The executors appointed are her nephews George Augustus Frederick Cavendish Bentinck, Esq., M.P., barrister-at-law, and Sir Thomas Whichcott, Bart. Her Ladyship has left many bequests to nephews, nieces, and other relatives; and libera legacies to her servants. To each of her godchildren, £100. Amongst the legatees to whom remembrances are left is her sister the Duchess of Cleveland. All legacies are to be free of duty. Her Ladyship states that she has given away privately by a document, not testamentary, her jewels, trinkets, and personal ornaments. She has appointed her said nephew, George A. F. C. Bentinck, residuary legatee.

The will of the Rev. James Powell Goulton-Constable, Rector of Cottesbach, Leicestershire, who died at Hildersley, near Malton, Yorkshire, on Oct. 10 last, aged fifty-two, was proved in London, on the 13th ult., under £45,000 personalty, by his nephews, the Rev. John Sikes Watson, of Canterbury, and Henry Stephens, Esq., of Bradfield, Berks, and Edmund Harris, Esq., of Rugby, Warwickshire, the joint acting executors; to each of whom he leaves a legacy of £100 for their trouble. The will is dated April 15, 1868, and a codicil July 11 last. He has provided libecally for his family, bequeathing to his wife all his furniture and a large annuity, as well as a life interest in the income arising from the estates of Walcot, Alkborough, Whitton Coley, and West Halton, in Lincolnshire, bequeathed to the testator under the will of the late Lady Strickland. He bequeaths to each of his sons (except the eldest and second) £5000, and to each of his daughters £6000. He directs the living of Cottesbach to be offered to the eldest of his sons who may be in the ministry. He leaves his manorial rights to his eldest son, as also the residue of his personal estate.

The will of Captain Thomas Robert Brigstocke, R.N., late of Robert's Rest, Carmarthenshire, and of Stone Pitts, Ryde, Isle of Wight, dated April 22 last, was proved in London, on the 21st ult., under £25,000 personalty, by his daughter, Mary Harriette Player Brigstocke, the sole executrix and principal legatee. There are gifts of remembrance to his other children. He devises his freehold estate, Robert's Rest, also Alltynather Allotment, Carmarthenshire, to his son, William Benett Brigstocke. The gallant Captain died, Oct. 28 last, aged seventy-six.

The will of Joseph Charles Fisher, late of Maes Maur, Caterham, Surrey, and of London, warehouseman, was proved in the principal registry, on the 17th ult., under £60,000 personalty, by his relict and William Henry Jones, two of the executors; Henry Roberts, also an executor, having renounced. The will is dated Oct 28, 1868, and the testator died, Oct. 6 last, aged forty-seven. He leaves to his wife an immediate legacy of £250, and an annuity of £800 during widowhood, bequeathing the residue, real and personal to his children, appointing his wife guardian of those in their minority.

The will of Thomas Edmett, Esq., of Kent, was proved in London under £80,000 personalty, and contains the following charitable bequests:—To the West Kent Infirmary and Dispensary, £3000; the Bluecoat Charity School, £2000; Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital, £1000; All Saints' and Trinity National Schools, each £1500; St. Peter's and St. Paul's National Schools each £1000.

The will of Henry Elwood was proved under £30,0. He has left a choice collection of pictures.

The will of Ann Stirling Dundas was proved under £9000 personalty in England. She has left numerous legacies to Scotch charitable institutions.

Mr. Odger, adverting to a question asked in this paper on Nov 25—"Is not Mr Odger publishing a journal to educate the people in Republican principles?"—writes to say that "the statement is entirely untrue." He continues:—"I am not, and never have been, connected in any way whatever with any such journal."

The fishing-lugger Norfolk Hero, of Yarmouth, was lost, on Saturday, off the Norfolk coast, with a crew of eleven hands. At South Shields, on Sunday morning, a schooner, on being towed out of the harbour, broke her tow-rope in a violent squall, was driven with great violence upon the pier and wrecked. Three of the crew were drowned.

The Right Hon. Robert Lowe presided and distributed the prizes at the forty-seventh annual soirée of the Halifax Mechanics' Institute on Monday night. He delivered an important speech on the subject of primary education. Mr. Stansfeld also addressed the meeting. Mr. Lowe defended the Government in respect to their legislation for Ireland, and concluded with some allusions to the Republican agitation, observing:—"The Queen is no stranger in public, is no novice in government. She has for four-and-thirty years reigned over us, and maintained during that time a high, honourable, and stainless character. During the time she has occupied the throne she has filled the position with a high and stainless character which has been an honour to herself and this great nation, the happiness of which consisted in living under her. I well know that if there is any feature in her character more remarkable than another, it is that of keeping strict adherence to her word. Of her it might be said—

> Her armour is her honest thought,
> And simple truth her shield.

(Loud cheers.) No one had ever tried to show that she has stepped away or gone one hair's breadth beyond the letter of duty—no one can allege that she has ever made a promise she did not fulfil, or that she has ever spoken a word not strictly true, or written a word with the slightest attempt to deceive or misguide. (Hear, hear.) I really feel ashamed to say what I am going to say—that is, that I have every reason to believe that all the promises made by the Queen have been fulfilled, together with the one she made to pay the income tax. I state to you, being a person from whom such statement would come with proper official authority, that her Majesty has paid income tax. I am not going into details, but the sums thus paid by her Majesty since the year 1842, when the promises were made, are to be counted in hundreds of thousands. (Applause.) I have selected that as a simple instance, and if the honourable gentleman in question should bring it forward in the House I shall be most happy to give the fullest explanation; and I have no doubt the country will be satisfied that, as in other things, the Queen, in her office, has been high and honourable—that her Majesty has been true to herself, and the worthy representative of all true English people. (Cheers.)

"NOTHING IN THE PAPERS."

One of the great theological questions having just been fully discussed before the Judicial Committee (judgment is reserved), it may not be uninteresting to readers to know how it was evaded about a hundred years ago by one of our famous travellers—to whom, by-the-way, the Abyssinian expedition and some of our late discoverers have caused more justice to be done than was accorded to him in a sceptical age. Mr. James Bruce finished in 1773 an Abyssinian tour, in the course of which he was at Adowa, where a great trouble arose. One of the priests threw down some of the consecrated wine, which was spilt upon the steps where the communicants stood. Some hay was at once laid upon it, but this hay was trodden under foot during the service. Much scandal was caused, and the priest secretly consulted his friend Mr. Bruce as to what should have been done—or, rather, what would have been done in England. Bruce told the clergyman that, if he believed the wine to have been changed into something holier, he had been guilty of a most horrid crime, and he should cry upon the mountains to cover him, and ages of atonement were not sufficient for expiation. He should have railed the place with iron or built it round with stone, that no foot, or aught else but the dew of heaven, could have fallen upon it. Or he should have brought in the river that would have washed all to the sea. But if, on the contrary, he believed that the wine was only a symbol, then, what had occurred having been only accidental, and the priest being heartily sorry for it, Mr. Bruce held that he was not further liable in the crime of sacrilege than if the wine had not been consecrated at all. The priest declared, with the greatest earnestness, that he took this second view; and I find no more about the matter, except that Mr. Bruce, a good Scotchman, did not lose the opportunity of charging the Jesuits with making lying representations as to the belief of the Abyssinians in the Real Presence.

If the latest exposures that have been made of the hardships which the inferior railway officials are forced to undergo, to the deadly peril of the traveller, do not compel a universal demand for Imperial interference, people may be said to deserve all that may happen to them. I take these figures from the *Daily Telegraph*, and no words can strengthen the case. It is distinctly in evidence that the guard of a railway train, working six weeks, worked thus: First week, 63 hours; second, 82; third, 74; fourth, 101; fifth, 74; and sixth, 112: omitting fractions, the average being 85 hours per week. Then remember what the work is, and its responsibilities, and the unfailing vigilance which is demanded from a railway guard. Yet people wonder at accidents.

The first volume of the life of Charles Dickens will soon be in all hands. The extracts which have been given have been read with avidity. It will be news to most persons that when the great novellist was a small boy, he was employed for a time in putting labels on blacking-bottles, and covering their tops neatly. During this period he was very unhappy, and had a boy's very good reason for being so; for, though it does not appear that he was ill-used, he was insufficiently fed. This latter sorrow was partly due to himself, for the poor little fellow received a certain stipend, the expenditure of which, child-like, he could not always keep well in hand, so that at the end of the week he had not money to buy food. A very touching little incident he records—namely, his endeavour to make his cash last him through the week by tying it up in small parcels, one to be opened on each day. However, this penance did not last very long, but long enough to leave upon his sensitive nature an impression which never wore off. There are many things in the book which may possibly be seized upon by artists, and it will not surprise me should the next Academy catalogue contain more than one item to which will be apperded "vide Life. by John Forster, Esq."

I need not refer to the reason which has caused many of us to look into the history of the Chesterfield family. I wish to allude only to a political story and a piece of poetry. Does anybody read the "Triumphs of Temper," by William Hayley, Esq., whom Gifford described as a puny insect quivering at a breeze, but who was a singularly athletic man and a daring rider? There are some very good passages in the book, which is not so "goody goody" as the title might be thought to imply. The lines I am going to mention occur where the heroine, Serena, calms a disturbance in her rather irritable family. Her aunt has been very savage on the subject of scandal, and her father is also in wrath at her name having been mentioned in print. Serena, equal to any occasion, takes up a volume which had been "tossed upon a vacant chair." It is a book of that wit

> Whose value, tried by Fashion's varying touch,
> Once rose too high, and now is sunk too much.
> The book which Fortune placed within her reach
> Contained, O Chesterfield, the Liberal speech
> In which thy spirit, like an Attic sage,
> Strove to defend the violated stage
> From fetters basely forged by Ministerial rage.

The fair Serena, in a somewhat inelegant attitude, one might think, for she is "reclining on the book," eloquently declaims a paraphrase of Lord Chesterfield's celebrated defence of dramatic license:—

> If on this noble Lord we may rely,
> Scandal is but a speck on Freedom's eye;
> And public spirit, then, will rather bear
> The casual pain it gives by growing there
> Than, by a rash attempt to move it thence,
> Hazard the safety of a precious sense.

One need hardly say that this, and some more of the same sort of thing, so delights her father that he forgets his age, his anger, and his gout, springs up, embraces her, calls her "enchanting girl," and—Conservative young ladies—

> My own true offspring, and a Whig at heart.

Beyond which climax no parent can go.

One had thought that Mr. Whalley had been disposed of by Mr. Gladstone when the Premier explained that the inquiry whether he was a secret Papist meant an inquiry whether he were "the basest creature in the kingdom." But Mr. Whalley is impervious to satire, and altogether irrepressible. He actually applied to Mr. Gladstone again for more definite information. Now he is told that to pursue such questioning is to violate the social law between man and man. Will that suffice? Not in the least; and Mr. Whalley cannot see that Mr. Gladstone has any right to be offended.

Ice comes by fits and starts, and when it is only an inch and a quarter in thickness thousands of idiots venture upon it. An expensive staff of officials is requisite near each water, to save persons who appear to set no value on their own lives, and these brave officials are in constant peril because of the folly of the many. Why not enact a police law to the effect that any person going upon ice while an official warning against doing so is exhibited shall be regarded as a trespasser, and punished accordingly?

MUSIC.

THE OPERA.

Yesterday (Friday) week "Robert le Diable" was performed in its Italian version, and in most respects as during past seasons, the exception having been Mdlle. Colombo's appearance as Princess Isabella, the music of which character was given by the singer with considerable grace in its lighter portions, but with some want of the passionate earnestness which is required in the passages of despairing appeal to her infatuated Norman lover. The Alice of Mdlle Titiens again displayed the dramatic power of that artist in the great scene with Bertram when taking refuge at the cross from the menaces of the human fiend. In other respects the character of the timid peasant girl is scarcely so well suited to Mdlle. Titiens as most of her other impersonations. Signori Vizzani, Antonucci, and Rinaldini were the Roberto, Bertram, and Rambaldo, as on former occasions; and that clever dancer Mdlle. Blanche Ricors again personated the nun Elena, in the scene of the cloister revels.

Mdlle. Marimon's appearance as Norina, in "Don Pasquale," was a second time postponed—from Thursday week to Monday last. This makes the fifth character in which the lady is now known to the London public.

"Don Pasquale" is the slightest of the three favourite comic operas of Donizetti, and is inferior both in musical and dramatic interest to either "L'Elisir d'Amore" or "La Fille du Régiment." It depends largely on the humour thrown into the acting of the farcical old Don and the charm and vivacity imparted to the character of the lively young widow, Norina. In her representation of this latter part Mdlle. Marimon acted with much grace and vivacity, especially in the ultra-farcical scene where the elderly Don is worried and plagued into repentance and regret after the sham marriage—which he believes to be valid—with the coquettish widow. In the delivery of the music Mdlle. Marimon displayed her well-known facility and fluency of vocalisation, particularly in the allegretto of her opening cavatina, in the quartet at the end of the second act, and in the introduced bravura finale. Signor Fancelli sang well as Ernesto, and was encored in the well-known serenade, "Com' è gentil;" Signor Borella gave a spirited delineation of the Don, bringing out the grotesque humour of the part in the most demonstrative buffo style; and Signor Mendioroz gave his romanza, "Bella siccome," with good cantabile style. The opera was to be repeated on Thursday, and to-night (Saturday) "Der Freischütz" is to be given as the final performance.

The ninth of the present series of Crystal Palace Concerts included, in continuation of the illustration of Mendelssohn's genius, performances of the second pianoforte concerto (that in D minor) and the overture to "Ruy Blas." Mr. Charles Hallé was the pianist. At last Saturday's concert the selection from the same source consisted of the music to the "Midsummer Night's Dream," and the completed portions of the unfinished opera "Loreley." It was by the overture named after Shakspeare's play—originally intended for concert performance—that Mendelssohn first became celebrated in England. This marvellous production of genius and art, composed in 1826, when a youth of seventeen, was brought by him to London on his first visit here, in 1829. In 1843 he returned to the subject, and produced the exquisite incidental music for the performance of the play at Potsdam, weaving into the closing movements passages from the overture, and thus giving unity and completeness to the whole. There are no finer contrasts in the entire range of dramatic music than those offered by the delicate aerial grace which pervades the overture and the fairy vocal music, the refined sentiment and tenderness of that which expresses the love of Hermia and Lysander, and the humour, richly comic without coarseness, of the music of the Clowns, including the incomparable funeral march played during their mock tragedy. Still stronger proof of high dramatic powers is given by the grand completed finale and the two smaller pieces, "Ave Maria" and "Vintagers' Chorus," left as portions of the contemplated opera "Loreley," which was in progress at the time of the composer's death, in 1847. Finer orchestral performances than those of Saturday have scarcely been heard anywhere; and perhaps never before in this country have the rich and picturesque instrumental details of Mendelssohn's imaginative music been so worthily rendered. The principal soprano solos, including the important passages in the "Loreley" finale, were sung by Madame Lemmens-Sherrington; to Miss Jose Sherrington having been assigned the second part in the duet "Ye spotted snakes," and the solo passages in the concluding chorus of the "Midsummer Night's Dream" music. The other items of Saturday's programme comprised Mr. Sullivan's overture "The Sapphire Necklace," and miscellaneous pieces sung by the ladies just named and Mr. Vernon Rigby.

At the Monday Popular Concerts, and the Saturday afternoon performances in connection therewith, Madame Arabella Goddard and Mr. Charles Hallé have been alternately the solo pianists since our last notice of these concerts; and the quartet party—Madame Norman-Neruda, Messrs. L. Ries and Zerbini, and Signor Piatti—has been the same since the commencement of the season, on Nov. 13. The instrumental portion of last Monday's programme was entirely selected from the works of Beethoven, commencing with the sixth quartet, and including the string trio in G, the solo "Waldstein" pianoforte sonata played by Mr. Hallé, and the sonata in A, from op. 12, with violin, in association with Madame Neruda. Miscellaneous vocal pieces were contributed by Mr. Maybrick.

A concert was given by Mr. William Carter, at the Royal Albert Hall, on Tuesday evening, when that gentleman brought forward a sacred cantata of his own composition. This production is entitled "Placida, the Christian Martyr;" the text, by Mr. M. Deigh, being stated to be "founded on a story in the *Parish Magazine* of 1867." The persons represented are the Emperor Nero; Metullus (a patrician), and Rufus, his friend; Fabian, a Christian priest; Placida, Metellus's daughter; and Bertha, her slave; and the solo music for these characters was sung by Messrs. R. Hilton, E. Lloyd, F. Elmore, Valdec, Madame L. Sherrington, and Miss A. Fairman. A quasi-dramatic form is given to the cantata by its division into a prologue and several scenes—Metullus's Villa, the Catacombs, in the Mamertine Prison, and the Basilica. As there are thirty-one pieces, solo and choral, besides the overture, and as there is neither individuality of style nor originality of thought displayed throughout the music, slight notice will suffice. Mr. Carter appears to have a large acquaintance with the sacred music of the acknowledged masters, with a general preference for that of Mendelssohn and Spohr. Some of the pieces are smoothly written, and several were well received, particularly an air "There is a gem," for Placida; a duet, "O magnify," for that character and Bertha (encored); Metellus's air, "List to me;" a "Processional March," cleverly played on the organ by Mr. G. Carter; and a chorus of angels, for female voices (the last two encored). The cantata was given with organ accompaniment, and an occasional use of the pianoforte in some of the recitatives; and Mr. W. Carter conducted the performance, which included the co-operation of a numerous and efficient choir, said to consist of 1000 voices. The second part of the concert consisted of a miscellaneous selection, in the course of which Mr. W. Carter played Mendelssohn's concerto in G minor, with the orchestral accompaniments transferred to the organ, an instance of bad taste such as we have seldom met with. There is no other combination so unfit as that of these instruments, apart from the vulgarised and heavy effect given to the exquisitely delicate details of Mendelssohn's instrumentation by the distortion here referred to. Mr. Carter can have little reverence for the composer to treat one of his most charming works in such fashion.

The Sacred Harmonic Society will perform Mendelssohn's music to Racine's sacred drama of "Athalie" and Beethoven's "Mount of Olives," at Exeter Hall, on Friday next. The principal vocalists will be Madame Cora de Wilhorst, Mdlle. Drasdil, Miss Vista, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. Mr. Henry Nichols will read the illustrative verses of "Athalie;" Sir Michael Costa conducting.

THE THEATRES.

GAIETY.

The most important occurrence of the week is the reappearance of Mr. and Mrs. Boucicault at the Gaiety. These fine performers have engaged themselves for a short season of sixteen nights before Christmas, and a longer one commencing in May next, making one hundred nights altogether. Mr. Boucicault appeared by himself, on Wednesday week, in a drama of his own, adapted from the celebrated one-act French piece, entitled "La Joie Fait Peur," which he entitles "Night and Morning." Mr. Boucicault has given an Irish character to his adaptation; and his faithful old servant is an Hibernian named Kerry, represented by himself. How Mr. Boucicault can act an Irishman we well know; and in this instance he presents us with a careful and forcible portrait, which he will often have occasion to repeat. A further alteration he has made in the original, by substituting a wife for the mother. Miss Ada Cavendish accordingly appears as Mrs. Desmond, who is inconsolable for the supposed loss of her husband, Gerald Desmond (Mr. William Rignold); but he returns, much to the delight of old Kerry, who is almost upset by the incident. Nevertheless, he retains sufficient self-possession to prevent a sudden revelation to Mrs. Desmond, who, duly prepared for the interview, at length finds herself in the arms of her husband. Miss Cavendish showed great power in the concluding scene.

On Monday Mrs. Boucicault appeared in a new romantic drama, named "Elfie," which has been duly rehearsed in the provinces, and is another example of her husband's skill in fitting a subject for the stage. We regret that the criminal element abounds in the story, and could have wished that the pathos had been drawn from a purer source. Elfie (Mrs. Boucicault) is the unacknowledged daughter of a miser, who conceals his treasures under the hearth-stone in his kitchen. This fact comes to the knowledge of a poor photographer and a showman of waxworks, who contrive a plan for the robbery. The former takes the garb and visor (which he invents for the purpose) of a sailor, with whom Elfie is in love, but who loves another, and in this disguise effects his object, wounding her father in the encounter. Elfie denounces the innocent sailor as the thief; but the brave man manages to regain her confidence, and, assisted by another sailor, who is blind, named Joe (Mr. W. Rignold), Elfie, following up a suggestion which has occurred to her, ventures up to London, and gains admission to the waxwork apartment of the showman, and overhears him and the guilty photographer quarrelling about the division of the spoil. Leaving the showman in the custody of the blind sailor, she hastens to Scotland-yard; and, with the aid of the police, tracks the photographer to her father's house, and has him taken into custody. Such is the simple story, which offers little scope for pathos, but this little is exquisitely worked out by the author. The part of Elfie is sustained with great cleverness by Mrs. Boucicault, and the points of interest are carefully elaborated. The manner in which she receives her first kiss from one of the sailors, and staggers under the novel sensation, is an admirable delineation, as natural as it is artistic. The scenery of the drama, by Mr. Hann, is worthy of the artist, and forms an appropriate framework to the dramatic picture.

A new burlesque on the subject of "Ivanhoe" has been produced at the Court. It has proved successful, but is not of sufficient merit to demand a detailed account of the performance.

The Standard has been recently engaged in the representation of the legitimate drama, Mr. Henry Marston and Mr. T. Swinburne sustaining the principal parts, assisted by Mrs. H Vezin. The pieces performed this week have been "The Lady of Lyons," "Ingomar," "King John," and "The School for Scandal."

A new piece, entitled "By the Command of the King," has been produced at the Pavilion It is full of stirring incidents, commencing with wreckers on the English coast, and concluding, in Paris, with a duel in the palace before the King of France. The interest of the piece depends on the acting of Mr. A. Rayner, Mr. George Yates, Miss M. Foster, and Miss Leigh, all of whom were efficient representatives of their several characters. The scenery and dresses are remarkably picturesque and splendid.

The Charing Cross has been taken by Mr. Maccabe, and adapted for his entertainment, well known by the title of "Begone, Dull Care." He has re-named the theatre as the "Gallery of Varieties; or, An Elysium of Humour, Music, and Ventriloquism." Mr. Maccabe has properly abolished the fees for bonnets, and made other judicious arrangements, which will no doubt conduce to his permanent success.

The Middlesex justices have appointed a committee with instructions to seek a site for a school for girls under the provisions of the Middlesex School Act, such site not to exceed four acres, with, if possible, existing buildings upon it for the accommodation of about fifty girls. They also intend to erect another pauper lunatic asylum for those of the incurable class.

The West Lothian Agricultural Association held its annual Christmas show for fat stock, at Linlithgow, yesterday week. The *Scotsman* states that the cattle were somewhat inferior to those shown in previous years, but the sheep classes exhibited an improvement. The annual fat stock show at Forres was held on Monday, and, in regard to the excellence of the stock, was the most successful ever held there.

The correspondence which has passed between Mr. Gladstone, Lord Hatherley, and the Lord Chief Justice of England in reference to the appointment of Sir R. P. Collier to be one of the paid members of the Judicial Committee has been published. The language which Sir A. Cockburn employs is very emphatic, and he is met no less energetically. It should be noted that the Lord Chief Justice declares that his objection to the appointment did not arise from any disparagement of Sir R. Collier's personal fitness for the judicial office.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW AT T

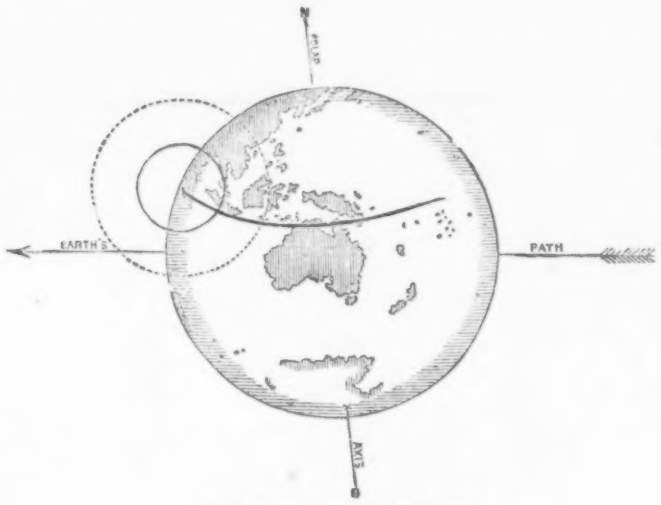
W AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.

THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF DEC. 12.

BY RICHARD A. PROCTOR, B.A., F.R.A.S.

The solar eclipse of next Tuesday is the last of a series of four—occurring in four successive years—which have led to remarkable scientific expeditions. In August, 1868, the great Indian eclipse took place, and along the path of the shadow were stationed two well-equipped English observing parties, as well as an Austrian party and two French parties. In August, 1869, occurred the American eclipse, when the moon's shadow traversed nearly the whole breadth of North America, and the observers were to be numbered almost by the hundred. Last December, as all must remember, the Mediterranean eclipse took place, when England alone sent out two well-equipped expeditions (comprising four observing parties), America again at great expense taking part in the work, Janssen escaping from beleaguered Paris in a balloon to represent French science, and Italy being represented by Fr. Secchi and his coadjutors in Sicily. And now, in the fourth eclipse of the series, India is again traversed by the moon's shadow, which passes on by Ceylon, Sumatra, and Java to North Australia. As was to be expected, British science will be represented in India and Australia. But England has done more than this, for she has sent out an expedition to Ceylon (under the command of our skilful spectroscopist, Mr. Lockyer), Government granting a sum of £2000 for this purpose, as well as the means of transport, camping, &c. France, too, sends out a party, under M. Janssen, who shares with Lockyer the credit of devising the means by which the solar prominences can be studied when the sun is not eclipsed.

As no total solar eclipse of any importance will occur after Tuesday next for upwards of two years, a considerable degree of interest is naturally felt by astronomers in the prospects of the various parties stationed along the central line of the approaching eclipse. A brief inquiry into the circumstances of the eclipse may be interesting even to many who eschew the technicalities of astronomy.



Dec. 12, about 2h. 20m. a.m., London time.

I.—CENTRAL ECLIPSE JUST BEGINNING.

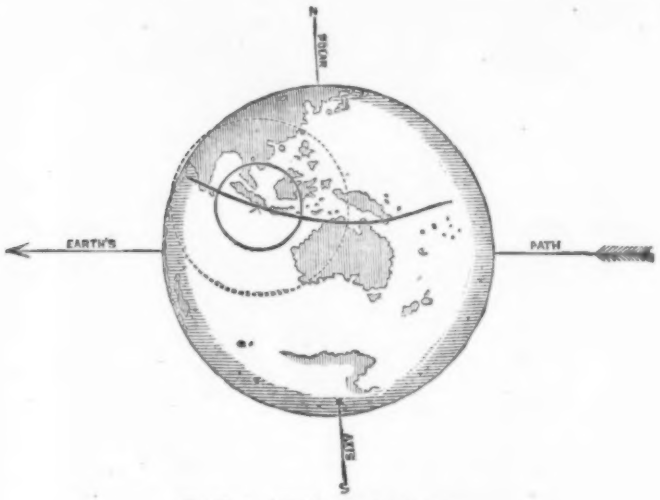
Figures I., II., III., IV., and V. exhibit the progress of this eclipse in a manner which I have long considered the simplest and most natural way of illustrating such phenomena. I find it difficult, indeed, to understand why this method has not hitherto been employed in our popular treatises of astronomy for illustrating not only eclipses, but the seasons and like subjects.

Of course, this is not the place to supply the want I have touched on; but I hope to exhibit the course and progress of the present eclipse in a way which no one will find perplexing.

Let the reader conceive that he is placed at the sun at the moment when central eclipse is about to begin upon the earth. He would then see the earth as it is shown in fig. I. The arrow indicates the path on which the earth is travelling; and the imaginary polar axis is shown as a real line (—) slightly inclined, and the southern end tilted towards our observer in the sun. The moon is seen on the left, half her disc already overlapping the earth's face. The Indian peninsula, Ceylon, and Java are concealed from the observer on the sun, whose place is supposed to be at the middle of that half of the sun turned at the moment towards the earth. So that already Colonel Tennant and Mr. Pogson, in India, have the eclipse so far in progress that they cannot see the middle point of the sun's face.

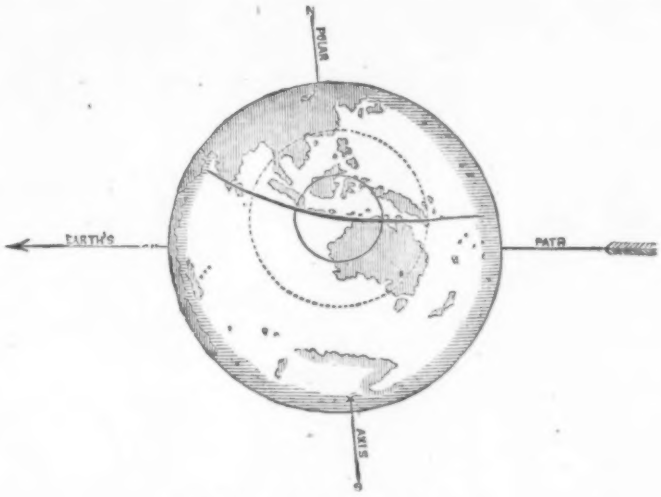
But, instead of one observer on the sun, suppose the whole of the sun's visible half covered with observers; then there would be a tiny circle at the middle of that representing the moon in fig. I.—a circle tiny in our figure, but in reality occupying a space many miles long and wide on the earth—which not one of these observers could see. This would be the true shadow, concealed from the whole orb of the sun. It is seen in fig. I., in the Arabian Sea, and it is there that central eclipse commences for the whole earth. The track which the shadow is to pursue is shown by the curved black line (thicker towards the middle); but the actual course of the moon across the earth's disc, as seen from the sun, will be nearly straight, the turning round of the earth on her axis making the track on her surface a curved one.

But, before describing the further progress of the moon across the face of the earth, I must explain the dotted circle



Dec. 12, about 3h. 10m. a.m., London time.

II.—CENTRAL ECLIPSE, NOW IN SOUTH OF SUMATRA.

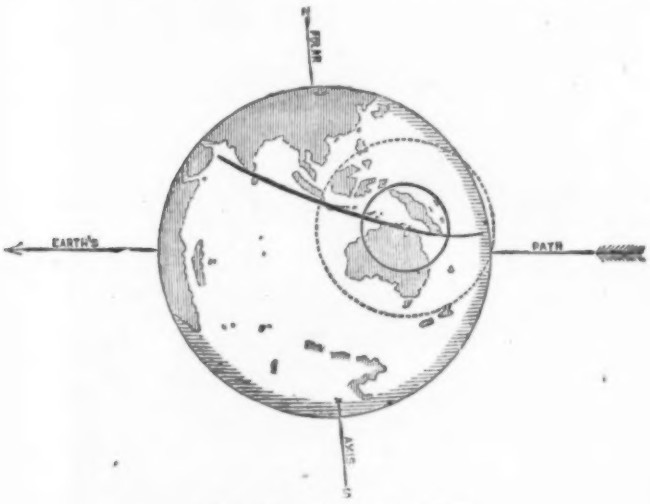


Dec. 12, about 4h. 0m. a.m., London time.

III.—CENTRAL ECLIPSE, BETWEEN JAVA AND NORTH AUSTRALIA.

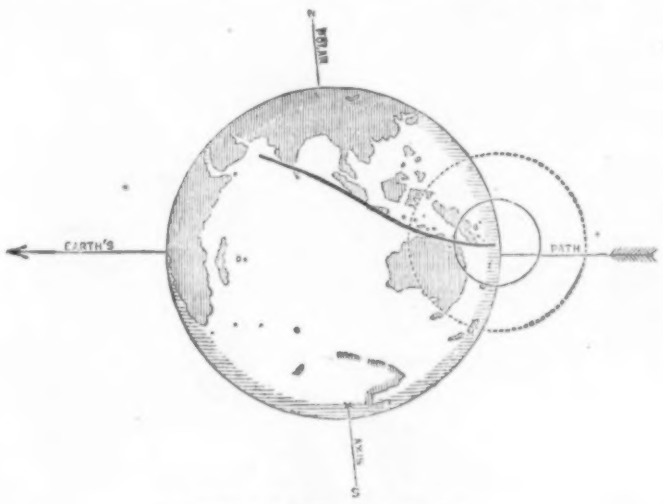
outside the moon. That incloses the region where the eclipse is in progress. All our imagined observers on the sun can see the part of the earth's surface lying outside this dotted circle, but every point within the circle is hidden from some of those observers—from so many the more as the point lies nearer to that central region which is hidden from all of them. Already, then, Janssen and his party at Java* have the sun partially eclipsed. The observers in North Australia are doubtless making preparations for observing the moment when first contact will take place, but fig. I. shows us that the eclipse has not yet begun with them.

The moon passes onwards with a slightly descending motion (as if making for the feathered end of the arrow in our figures), and at the end of fifty minutes the earth presents the appearance shown in fig. II. She has turned round by nearly an hour's rotation on her axis, as is shown by the advance of Africa into view (day, in fact, has begun along the eastern shores of Africa). But let the reader notice what progress the eclipse has made. The moon's centre has already passed South India and Ceylon, and the parties there are, let us hope, engaged in recording a series of successful observations. Where Lockyer and the rest of the Government expedition are stationed the sun shows more than half his face, for our figure shows Ceylon outside the outline of the moon's disc as



Dec. 12, about 4h. 50m. a.m., London time.

IV.—CENTRAL ECLIPSE IN NORTH AUSTRALIA.



Dec. 12, about 5h. 40m. a.m., London time.

V.—CENTRAL ECLIPSE JUST ENDING.

seen from the sun's centre. Totality is now in progress near the south of Sumatra, and the French party in Java have but a few minutes to wait before their turn comes. At the North Australian station (supposing the observing parties to have selected the western shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria) the eclipse has just begun.

Yet another interval of fifty minutes is supposed to have elapsed, and the earth presents the face shown in fig. III. It is now the true middle of the eclipse for the whole earth. Totality has passed in Java, and is in progress in the open sea between Java and Australia. If there are any ships at sea just there, the eclipsed sun lies nearly overhead, and the gloom upon the face of the ocean must form a strange contrast with the usual splendour of midday in the tropics. At the stations in India and Ceylon the eclipse is over. Very likely, however, Mr. Lockyer and his colleagues—supposing they have had good weather—are engaged in studying the solar prominences with the aid of the spectroscope, for comparison with the views (photographic or otherwise) obtained during the progress of totality.

Yet another interval of fifty minutes, and the Australian observers are at work; for, as shown in fig. IV., the central shadow is passing the North Australian observing-stations. At Java the eclipse is nearly over. Let us hope Janssen has been as successful as during the Indian eclipse of 1868. It is past noon at his station, but still forenoon with Tennant in India and with Lockyer in Ceylon.

Lastly, after another interval of about fifty minutes, central eclipse comes to an end for the whole earth. The sun is still partially eclipsed at the Australian stations, where the day is also far spent, though where the central eclipse first began (in the Arabian Sea) it is still early in the forenoon. The central shadow is passing away at a region in the Pacific Ocean (close

* A telegram received on Nov. 29 mentions that Janssen had gone to the Neilgherries. The original destination of his party was Java, and it is not clear whether he has decided on observing the eclipse on the Neilgherry Mountains, or has simply gone thither to communicate with the Indian observing parties there. The same telegram mentions that Mr. Lockyer is in communication with Colonel Tennant."

to the equator), and there passengers on some passing ship, or savages on some small island of the Polynesian groups, may witness the strange phenomena of a black sunset, the sun sinking beneath the waves of ocean with the moon upon his face

Space will not permit me to discuss here—nor, perhaps, is this the proper place for discussing—the nature of the observations which are to be made at the stations along the line of central eclipse. The reader is doubtless aware that the great object of observation is the corona (or crown) of glory seen around the sun during total eclipses. It is specially hoped that photographic evidence may be obtained as to the nature of this strange solar appendage, for such it is now almost universally admitted to be. The plan of employing a photographic camera, devised by Mr. Brothers, F.R.A.S., and employed successfully by him in Sicily last year, is to be adopted at the Indian, Cingalese, and Australian stations. Formerly the telescope was employed in photographing eclipses; but the superiority of Mr. Brothers's method is shown by the circumstance that he obtained a better picture of the corona during the last eleven seconds of totality than the American photographers (stationed at Cadiz) obtained with an exposure of a minute and a half. If clouds had not obscured the sky during the first two minutes of totality, Mr. Brothers would have obtained five pictures of the corona as good as the one he actually obtained.

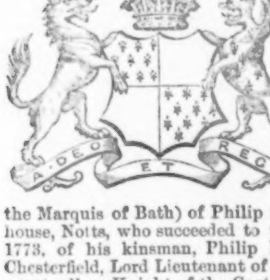
Exceptional credit will be due to the spectroscopists if they achieve success, for they come to a field already thrice gleaned, and that by the most skilful workers.

It is a fact worthy of notice, in conclusion, that almost exactly three years hence, at a time when the earth will turn the same face towards the sun as during the approaching eclipse, expeditions for which Parliament has already voted upwards of £10,000 will occupy various stations, shown in figures I., II., III., IV., and V., for the purpose of observing the transit of Venus of Dec. 8, 1874. So closely—by a strange chance—do the two events agree as respects the earth's aspect as supposed to be viewed from the sun, that it would require an acute eye to distinguish the aspect of the earth in figures I., III., and V. from my drawings of the earth ("The Sun," plates VIII., IX., and X.) as she will be seen from the sun at the beginning, middle, and end of the transit of Venus Of course the relation is purely accidental, but the coincidence is so close that it is worth recording.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

THE EARL OF CHESTERFIELD.

The Right Hon. George Philip Cecil Arthur Stanhope, seventh Earl of Chesterfield, and Baron Stanhope, of Shelford, Notts, died, of typhoid fever, on the 1st inst., at his seat, Bretby Hall, Derbyshire. His Lordship was born Sept. 28, 1831, the only son of George, sixth Earl of Chesterfield, by Anne Elizabeth, his wife, eldest daughter of Cecil, first Lord Forester, and was grandson (by Henrietta, his second wife, daughter of Thomas, the Marquis of Bath) of Philip Stanhope, of Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts, who succeeded to the earldom at the death, in 1773, of his kinsman, Philip Dormer, the celebrated Lord Chesterfield, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1745, and became eventually a Knight of the Garter. The nobleman whose untimely death we record was educated at Eton, held for a few years a commission in the Royal Horse Guards (Blue), and represented (as a Conservative) the southern division of Notts in Parliament from 1860 to 1866. In the latter year, on June 1, he inherited his peerage honours, which, as he never married, now pass to his cousin, George Philip Stanhope, late Lieutenant 29th Regiment, as eighth Earl of Chesterfield, who is only surviving child of the late Captain Charles George Stanhope, by Jane, his wife, eldest daughter of Sir James Galbraith, Bart. He was born in November, 1822. "The famous family of Stanhope," as it is styled by Camden, carries back its pedigree to a remote period, and has associated its name with many an honourable passage in history. The three principal lines, all springing from a common ancestor, Sir John Stanhope of Shelford—temp. Queen Elizabeth—are represented respectively by the Earl of Chesterfield, Earl Stanhope, and the Earl of Harrington. Sir Edwyn Francis Scudamore Stanhope, Bart., of Holme Lacy, is head of the branch next in succession to the present Lord Chesterfield.



THE COMTE DE GIRGENTI.

Another tragic calamity is added to the sad story of the Royal Bourbons. Prince Gaëtan of Naples, Count de Girgenti, half brother of the ex-King of the Two Sicilies and son-in-law of Isabella Queen of Spain, died by his own hand, at Lucerne, on the 26th ult. His Royal Highness was fourth son of Ferdinand II., King of Naples, by his second wife, Theresa, Archduchess of Austria. He was born Jan. 12, 1846, and married May 14, 1868, his cousin, the Infanta Isabella, eldest daughter of the Queen of Spain. A Lieutenant in the Austrian army, the young Prince shared in the fiercely-contested conflict at Sadowa, and, for his energy and courage in having traversed the Prussian lines with despatches, received one of the few decorations distributed during the disastrous campaign. In 1868 he served, as Colonel of Spanish Hussars, at the battle of Alcolea, and was there wounded.

THE HON. MRS. H. S. LAW.

Dorothea Anne, wife of the Hon. Henry Spencer-Law, fourth son of Edward, first Lord Ellenborough, the Lord Chief Justice, died, at her residence in Eccleston-square, on the 25th ult. She was the eldest daughter of the late Colonel John Staunton-Rochfort, of Clogrenane, in the county of Carlow, by Mary, his second wife, sister of the late General Lord Downes, G.C.B. Her marriage took place in 1840, and its surviving issue consists of two sons and three daughters.

MR. BEDINGFELD, OF DITCHINGHAM.

John Longueville-Bedingfeld, Esq., of Ditchingham Hall, Norfolk, J.P. and D.L., died, on the 28th ult., at Dieppe, in France, in the seventy-second year of his age. He was the eldest son of John James Bedingfeld, Esq., of Ditchingham, J.P. and D.L., by Sarah, his wife, daughter and coheir of Paul Piersy, Esq., of Fair Hill, in the county of Cork, and represented a branch of the old family of Bedingfeld, of Oxburgh, which separated from the parent stem in the fourteenth century. He was educated at Eton, and at Christ Church, Oxford; was lord of the manor of Pirn How, and held the patronage of two livings. He married, July 21, 1829, the Hon. Mary Henniker, second daughter of John Minet, third Lord Henniker, and leaves issue

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. H. D.—Your solution arrived too late for the current lists. Can you not send them earlier?

PECKSNIFF.—What you term "double problems," where whichever side plays first is to give mate, are not at all uncommon.

V. G., Oldenburgh.—The problems last received shall have immediate attention.

W. OLIVER.—No one of your solutions is right or nearly right.

E. POSNO.—We cannot tell what solution you refer to. It is useless to send contributions unless the name of the contributor is *written on them*.

THE CORRECT SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 1448 has been received from Fabrice—T. Hind—M.A.—R. D. T.—Keith and Kate—C. R. Baxter—H. Scargill—J. W., Canterbury—F. W. Lord—Sigma—T. Barron—M. P.—G. S. T.—J. N.—W. P. C.—Ernest—Paragon—J. J. Simpson—H. Murray—R. A.—Box and Cox—F. R. S.—D. D.—W. G. Harris—Alex. Nevis—P. B.—Lucy—Ferris—Togs—Peter—W. R. B.—Alpha—F. H.—Nautilus—J. Sowden—B. C. K.—R. F.—Peggotty—E. M.—Demonchy, of Marseilles—A. P. C. Kup—W. Scammell—De Heriz—Mentor—Berlant, of Bruges—Ferdinand and Miranda—Charley—H. B.—Masson—F. R. S.—Big Ben—S. T. V.—Roland—A. Clerk—B. D.—Septimus—E. F. G.—1871—Medicus—G. H. Finch—Joan S. Sharp—Hugh—T. C. Brandon—R. B. W.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 1449.

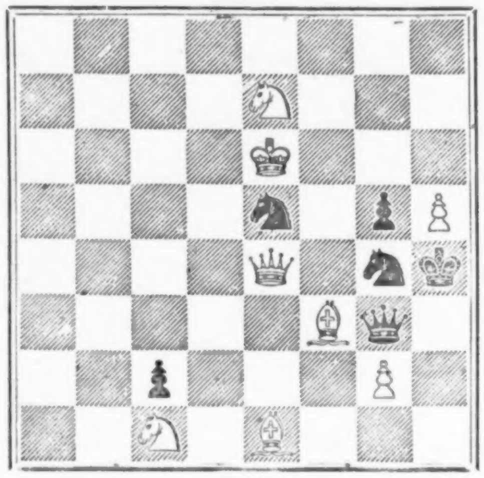
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. R to Q R 8th	K moves	3. R to Q R 4th	K takes P
2. B to Q Kt 8th (ch)	K to B 4th*	4. Kt gives mate.	

*2.	K to K 2nd	4. B to Q 6th. Mate.
3. P to K R 6th	K moves	

PROBLEM No. 1450.

By Mr. W. S. PAVITT.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and give mate in three moves.

CHESS AT MANCHESTER.

Game between Messrs. BLACKBURNE and STEINKUHLER.

(Hampe's Opening.)

WHITE (Mr. B.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th
2. Kt to Q B 3rd	B to Q B 4th
3. P to K B 4th	P to Q 3rd
4. Kt to K B 3rd	Kt to Q B 3rd
5. B to Q Kt 5th	B to K Kt 5th
6. P takes P	P takes P
7. B takes Kt (ch)	P takes B
8. P to Q 3rd	Kt to K B 3rd
9. Q to K 2nd	R to Q Kt sq
10. Kt to Q sq	Castles
11. R to Q Kt sq	Kt to K R 4th
12. Kt to K 3rd	

White's inability to castle places him already at a disadvantage.

12.	Kt to K B 5th
13. Q to K B sq	P to K B 4th

A good move.

14. K Kt takes K P	P takes P
15. Q Kt takes B	

White gains sufficient compensation for his Queen in material, but his position is much against him.

WHITE (Mr. B.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)
15.	Kt takes Q P (ch)
16. P takes Kt	R takes Q (ch)
17. R takes R	P takes P
18. R to K B 7th	Q to K sq

If, instead of this move, he had played B to Q 3rd, we do not see how White could have held out.

19. B to K R 6th	Q to K 3rd
20. R takes P (ch)	

Mr. Blackburne, even now, might have turned the tables by taking the Pawn with his Bishop.

20.	K to R sq
21. R to K B 7th	R to K Kt sq
22. R to K B 6th	Q to K sq
23. B to K 3rd	B takes B,

and White resigned.

CHESS AT CAMBRIDGE.

A smart Skirmish between Messrs. J. DE SOYRES and C. LAMBERT, of the "Cambridge Staunton Club."—*(Allgaier-Keiseritzky Gambit.)*

WHITE (Mr. J. de S.)	BLACK (Mr. C. L.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th
2. P to K B 4th	P takes P
3. Kt to K B 3rd	P to K Kt 4th
4. P to K R 4th	P to Kt 5th
5. Kt to K 5th	Kt to K B 3rd

It is a moot point whether this move or B to K Kt 2nd is the best line of defence.

6. B to Q B 4th	P to Q 4th
7. P takes P	B to Q 3rd
8. P to Q 4th	Kt to K R 4th
9. Kt to Q B 3rd	Q to K 2nd
10. B to Q Kt 5th (ch)	B to Q 2nd
11. Castles	

Q takes K Kt P looks more promising.

WHITE (Mr. J. de S.)	BLACK (Mr. C. L.)
11.	B takes Kt
12. P takes B	Q to Q B 4th (ch)

Is this as good as taking the K R Pawn?

13. K to R 2nd	B takes B
14. R takes P	

Why so? What was the objection to taking the Bishop?

14.	Kt takes R
15. Q takes P	

White's play hereabouts is a little beyond our depth; though we have no doubt he had good reason for it.

15.	Kt to Q 2nd
16. B takes Kt	Castles,

and, after a few more moves, White gave in.

CHESS IN SCOTLAND.

An elegant and dashing Skirmish played between our old contributor "DELTA" and Miss WILSON, the former giving his K's Kt.

(Remove White's K's Kt from the Board.—K's Bishop's Opening.)

WHITE ("Delta.")	BLACK (Miss W.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th
2. B to Q B 4th	B to Q B 4th
3. P to Q Kt 4th	B takes Kt P
4. P to Q B 3rd	B to Q R 4th
5. Q to Q Kt 3rd	Q to K 2nd
6. Castles	Kt to K B 3rd
7. P to K B 4th	

Well played. White has now a good and an attacking position.

7.	B to Q Kt 3rd (ch)
8. P to Q 4th	Kt takes K P
9. B to Q R 3rd	P to Q 3rd
10. P takes P	Castles
11. B to Q 5th	Q takes K P

The *coup juste*.

12. R takes P	B takes Q P (ch)
13. K to B sq	

If K to R sq he would, evidently, have been mated in two moves.

WHITE ("Delta.")	BLACK (Miss W.)
13.	R takes R (ch)
14. B takes R (ch)	K to R sq
15. P takes B	Q takes Q P
16. Q to Q B 2nd	Q to K B 3rd (ch)

Black, apparently, could have taken the Rook with safety. For suppose—

16.	Q takes R
17. B to Q Kt 2nd	Q takes Kt (ch)
18. Q takes Q	Kt to Q 7th (ch), &c.

17. K to Kt sq	Q takes B
18. Q takes Kt	Kt to Q B 3rd
19. Kt to Q 2nd	B to Q 2nd
20. R to K B sq	Q takes R P
21. Q to K B 4th	P to K R 3rd
22. B to Q B sq	Q to K 3rd

This, also, was well played, and virtually decides the contest.

23. B to Q Kt 2nd	Kt to K 4th,

and Black gained the day.

THE DIVERSITIE OF MATES.

To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

Sir,—Through the kindness of Mr. J. W. Rimington Wilson, an amateur of our noble game, who possesses perhaps the finest chess library in the world, I am enabled myself to answer the question which I propounded in your issue of Oct. 24, regarding the authorship of "The Diversitie of Mates." It is to be found in "The Famous Game of Chesse Play, by Jo. Barbier." London, 1672. This rare little volume is, in truth, a reprint of old Arthur Saul's brochure of thirty leaves, published in 1614, to which Barbier has made several additions, "The Diversitie of Mates" being one of them. He likewise gives a code of chess laws, which differs in some important respects from that now in use, and suggests a question as to the period when our modern innovations were introduced. He lays it down, for instance, that stale mate is a lost game for the player who inflicts it on his opponent, and that no more than a single Queen can at any time be allowed on the board. Barbier's Law 2, it will be seen, is also at variance with modern practice: "If you take up your adversaries man, and before you set your piece in place thereof, thinke best to let it stand untaken, you must kisse the foot thereof, and cry him mercy, or lose the game; because you deserve to pay for the surgery, if you breake a man's head, and will not give him a plaister, which is but small amends."—Yours faithfully, H. A. KENNEDY.

Waterloo Lodge, Reading.

THE FIRE AT WARWICK CASTLE.

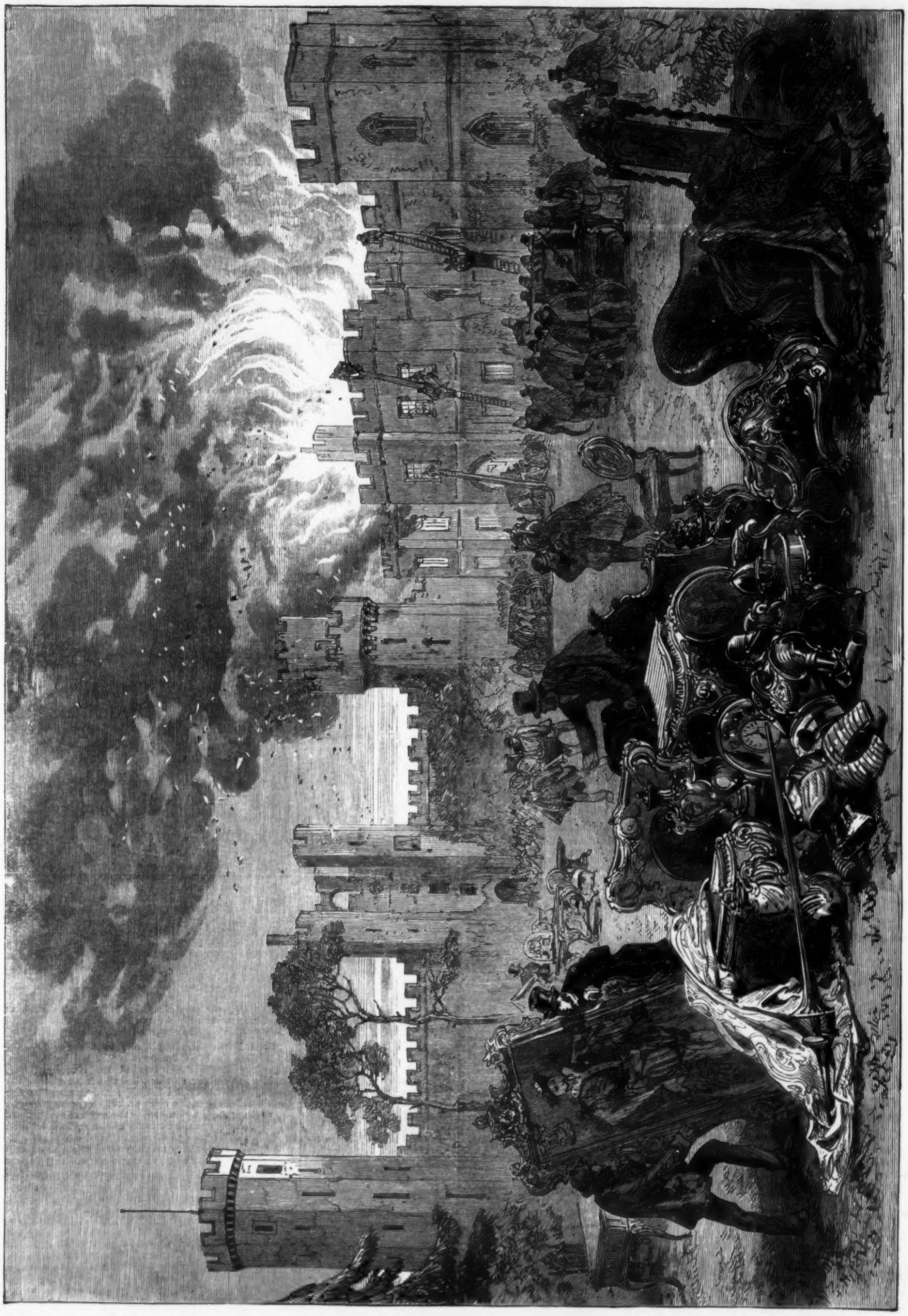
Warwick Castle, the seat of the Earl of Warwick and one of the finest baronial mansions in the kingdom, was partially destroyed by fire early on Sunday morning. The Earl and Countess of Warwick were at Torquay, her Ladyship having gone on Friday, and Lord Brooke had also left the castle on Saturday; but two of the children remained—Lady Eva, aged eleven, and the Hon Sidney Robert Greville, five years of age. The fire began in Lady Warwick's apartments, over the library, in the east wing of the buildings, between the principal entrance and Cæsar's and Guy's Towers. Some workmen had been employed on Saturday in painting and decorating these apartments, and plumbers had been at work on the roof where they had fires. The fire in the house was perceived at two o'clock in the morning by the steward's boy, who roused two of the footmen. The sleepers in the bed-rooms were removed in safety. The alarm-bell was rung, and messages for aid were sent to the town, and to Leamington, Coventry, and Kenilworth. Engines and troops of firemen speedily arrived; but the whole of the east wing was consumed before they came. A few books from the library and some of the most valuable pictures were secured and carried into the courtyard. The castle stands upon an eminence, sloping down to the Avon. The front part was inaccessible to the firemen, from the great height of the burning apartments above the ground. They had, therefore, to play upon the building from the courtyard. For hours their efforts to check the flames appeared hopeless, and destruction seemed to threaten the whole structure. The grand staircase, with its richly-carved woodwork, conducted the fire to the grand hall, a magnificent apartment, 60 ft by 40 ft. and 26 ft. in height. The Gothic wooden roof was richly and elaborately carved, in 1851, from designs by Mr. Poynter, of Westminster. The walls were panelled with carved oak, and hung with antlers of deer, armour, swords, and matchlocks. Here were exhibited Cromwell's battered helmet, and the doublet in which Lord Brooke was killed at the siege of Lichfield, in 1634. The grand hall and its contents are wholly destroyed. The blackened walls and the charred fragments and ashes of the gorgeous roof alone remain. So rapidly did the flames extend towards the state apartments, where were stored the most valuable pictures, tapestries, and other works of art, that preparations were made for the worst. The flames were already licking the massive doors of the Red Drawing-room, which adjoins the Great Hall. The pictures by Rembrandt, Rubens, Vandervelde, Lely, Teniers, Murillo, and other famous masters, and the Vandyke portraits of Charles I., the Duke of Montrose, and Prince Rupert were first removed into the courtyard. Then everything else portable was removed, until the apartments were bare of everything save the furniture that was too large or too heavy to be carried away. The pictures were torn out of the beadings on which many of them were inlaid in the walls; the tops of costly marble tables were taken off; the rich old tapestry in the state bed-room was wrenched off the walls; and Queen Anne's bed, presented to the Earl of Warwick by George III., was pulled down and carried away piecemeal. One by one the Red Drawing-room, the Cedar Drawing-room, the Gilt Drawing-room, and the Boudoir, or State Dressing-room, were thus denuded. The flames up to six o'clock appeared to defy the exertions of the fire brigade. Happily, their efforts at last got the mastery of the fire, and the west wing of the castle, with the state rooms, the chapel, the collections of sculpture, pictures, armour, and curiosities, was saved. The plate and jewels were also preserved; and the famous Warwick vase was in a greenhouse, out of harm's way

This castle was founded in 915, it is said, by Ethelfleda, a daughter of King Alfred. It was the residence of the viscounts or lieutenants of the Earls of Mercia before the Norman Conquest. Under King William it was enlarged and fortified by Torquil, who was succeeded by Henry de Newburgh, the first Norman Earl of Warwick. In the Barons' War of Henry III., the castle, held for the King, was surprised by the enemy, and was captured and demolished, except Cæsar's Tower. The whole was restored and extended by Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Edward III. His son, of the same name, built Guy's Tower, in 1394. In the time of James I., Sir Fulke Greville, afterwards Lord Brooke, repaired and embellished the castle, and surrounded it with pleasant gardens. It withstood an attack from the Parliamentary forces in 1642. The Greville family, who have continued to hold the estate and castle, with the title of Lord Brooke, obtained the earldom of Warwick in 1759. The grandfather of the present Earl did a great deal for the adornment of the place. The range of buildings was 333 ft. long, with cellars beneath excavated out of the solid rock. The road is contrived so as to shut out the view of the castle for about one hundred yards, when a sudden turn reveals its lofty towers. Cæsar's Tower, which appears on the left, rising to the height of 147 ft., is of greater antiquity than any other part of the building. On the right is Guy's Tower, 128 ft. high, which, being situated on a more elevated part of the rock, overlooks Cæsar's Tower. These towers are connected by a strong embattled wall, in the centre of which is the great arched gateway leading into the inner court. On the left was the noble castellated mansion, the residence of the family, which has, unfortunately, been destroyed. It will be rebuilt without delay.

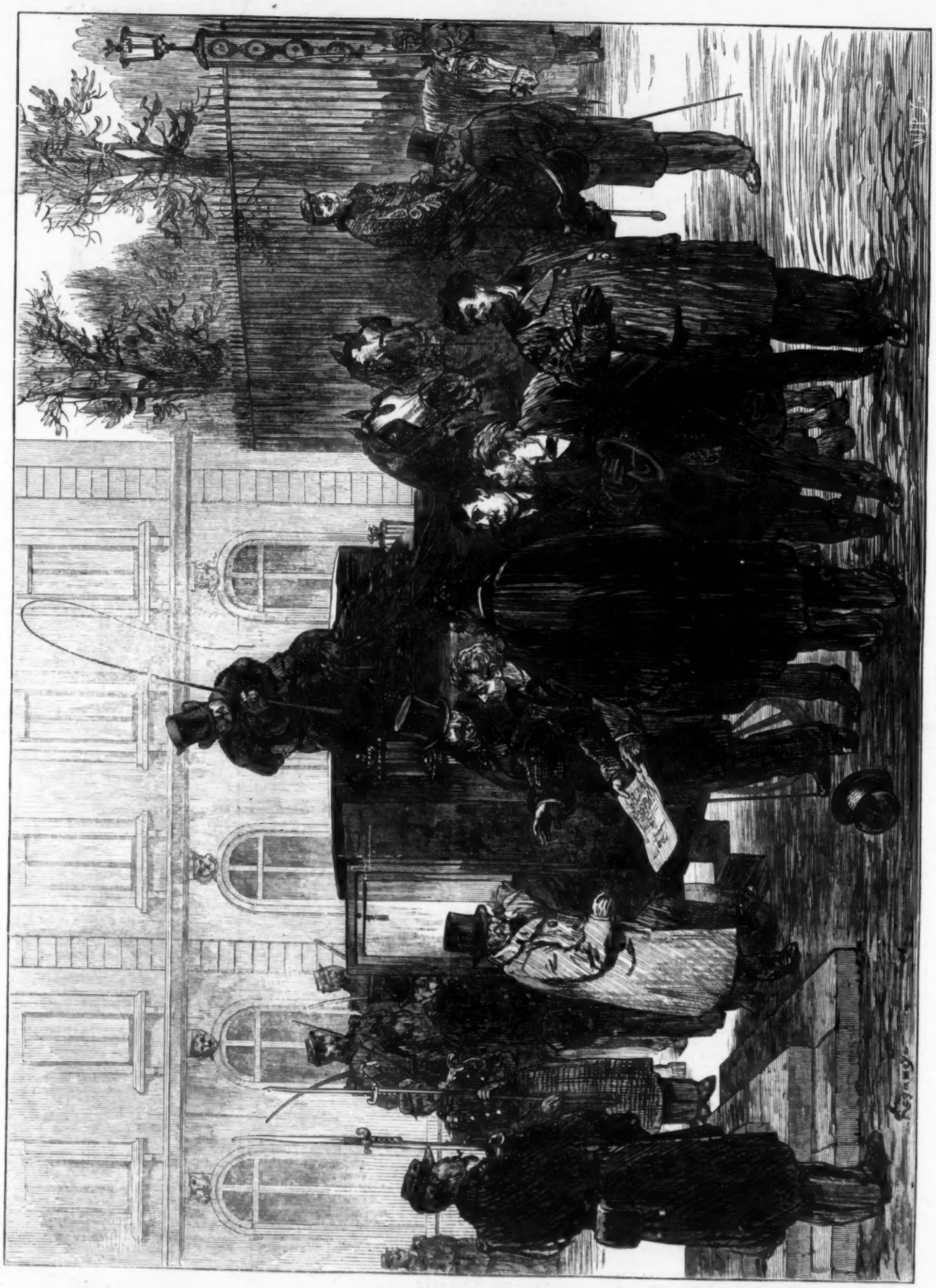
The *Birmingham Post* has information that the long litigation between Mr. George Hudson and the North-Eastern Railway Company has been settled.

Lord Elcho delivered the prizes to the Liverpool Rifle Brigade on Monday. In the course of a long address on the volunteers and the defences of the country, his Lordship justified the feeling of alarmism which now prevailed in the country, considering it a healthy sentiment, and an instinct of danger not to be made light of. He approved of the action of the Government in regard to the autumn manœuvres, which clearly pointed out the inability of the militia to act against well-trained troops, and the weakness of our army. Until the principle of compulsory military service was acted on, he considered there would be no safety in our military organisation.

According to the returns supplied by the Government emigration officials, Liverpool, it appears that, for the month ending Nov. 30, there sailed from the Mersey, under the Act, for the United States thirty-two ships, with 848 cabin and 7090 steerage passengers, of whom 4033 were English, 105 Scotch, 1093 Irish, and 2707 foreigners, making a total of 7938; Canada, one ship, with 33 cabin and 180 steerage passengers, of whom 175 were English and 38 foreigners: total, 213. Ships not under the Act—United States, seven, with 632 passengers; Victoria, one, with 69 passengers; East Indies, three, with 10 passengers; West Indies, three, with 27 passengers; China, one, with 12 passengers; Africa, two, with 24 passengers; South America, five, with 192 passengers: making a total of 966 passengers. This shows a total of passengers—under the Act, 8151, and not under the Act 966, which makes a grand total of 9117 passengers, showing an increase of 651 as compared with the corresponding month of last year.



THE FIRE AT WARWICK CASTLE.



STUDENTS INTERCEDING WITH M. THIERS FOR THE LIFE OF ROSSEL.

FORSTER'S LIFE OF CHARLES DICKENS.

The certainty of discovering who sat for the portraits of David Copperfield, of Dora, of Micawber, of Mrs. Pipchin, and many another of the immortals whose images haunt innumerable memories might, if any special incentive were necessary, be mentioned as a reason for becoming, as soon as possible, acquainted with the first volume of a new work now being published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall. But the wizard of Gadshill is sufficiently interesting of himself; and a biography of him, written partly by himself and partly by his friend of friends and the ablest of living biographers, Mr. John Forster, needs no particular recommendation any more than good wine needs a bush. Still it may be useful to give some account of what may be looked for in the first instalment of an uncompleted work. The volume is divided into twenty-four chapters; and the period of time embraced in them ranges from 1812, in which year Charles Dickens, alias David Copperfield, was born, to 1842, in which year the author of "American Notes" first crossed the Atlantic to stand face to face with a Pogram and a Hominy. The first chapter tells the story of his childhood; conjures up a vision of "a queer, small boy" (who, indeed, was himself), for whom "the house called Gadshill-place" had, whenever he passed it, a singular fascination; and leads one to believe that the father who said to him, touching the enchanted palace or place, "If you were to be very persevering and were to work hard, you might some day come to live in it," unconsciously, perhaps, sowed as good and as productive seed in the young mind as he could have sown had he been Solomon instead of Micawber. The second chapter is a jeremiad; it is full of the lamentation, and mourning, and woe of a boyhood passed in servitude and wretchedness; but even then, athwart the gloom of boyish despair shoot flashes of observation and gleams of humour, prophetic of the future Boz. The third chapter gives a picture of school-days that seemed to be never coming; of a Dora looming in the distance; and of a real footing upon the difficult ladder of success when the young aspirant bought Mr. Gurney's book about shorthand, and had not only waking hours but the season of sleep disturbed by "the changes that were rung upon dots, which in such a position meant such a thing, and in such another position something else entirely different; the wonderful vagaries that were played by circles; the unaccountable consequences that resulted from marks like flies' legs; the tremendous effects of a curve in the wrong place;" and by "the arbitrary characters," whose despotism was such that they "insisted, for instance, that a thing like the beginning of a cobweb meant expectation, and that a pen-and-ink skyrocket stood for disadvantageous." The fourth chapter takes us with the young reporter into "the gallery;" introduces us to the appreciative John Black, of the *Morning Chronicle*; expounds to us how the signature of "Boz" arose from an affectionate abbreviation of "Boses," which was a facetiously through-the-nose-pronounced transmogrification of "Moses," which was the nickname of a pet brother who had been christened Augustus; and intermingles with the biographical, incidents the name of Hogarth, which is suggestive of the peal of marriage-bells and of genial John Black flinging a slipper after his clever young friend. In the fifth chapter a very important point is reached; the "first book," "Sketches by Boz," is sold for £150, to be subsequently bought back for £2000; a fanciful, not to say mendacious, sketch of the young author, drawn by the notorious N. P. Willis, is presented in a note; the marriage, of which the banns had, as it were, been published in the preceding chapter, actually takes place; and the true version is given of all matters relating to the original of Mr. Pickwick, the origin of the "Pickwick Papers," the part performed by Seymour, the engagement of Mr. Hablot Browne, and the refusal met with by Mr. Thackeray, when, as the great author of "Vanity Fair" himself could well afford to declare, with a smile, his drawings were, "strange to say," not found "suitable." In the sixth chapter great interest is created by remarks bearing upon the personal appearance and habits of Dickens; by little pieces of valuable criticism; by the sudden apparition of Oliver Twist; and by a scene showing how the publishing vampire indulged in the pleasure of "bleeding" the popular but captive author. In the seventh chapter the "Life of Grimaldi" is edited; "Pickwick" is completed; a proposal is made as to "Barnaby Rudge;" an explanation is given about an anonymous volume called "Young Gentlemen and Young Couples;" and the first number of "Nicholas Nickleby" comes out and is sold on one day "to the tune," as the ostler remarked to David Copperfield, of "nearly fifty thousand." In the eighth chapter the chief incident is the separation of Dickens from his connection with *Bentley's Miscellany*; but with the account of that event there is commingled no little pleasant gossip about "Oliver Twist," about "Charley Bates, on behalf of whom (as, indeed, for the Dodger too) Talfourd had pleaded as earnestly in mitigation of judgment as ever at the bar for any client he had most respected;" and "a marvellous fable," which was originally promulgated in America, that land of invention and personalities, is quietly disposed of. In the ninth chapter the career of "Nicholas Nickleby" is described with a running accompaniment of critical or semi-critical comments; we are informed of the effect produced upon Leigh Hunt by the exquisite letter in which Miss Squeers pours forth her feelings, saying, "My pa requests me to write to you, the doctors considering it doubtful whether he will ever recuvver the use of his legs, which prevents his holding a pen. We are in a state of mind beyond everything, and my pa is one mask of brooses both blue and green, likewise two forms are steepled in his goar;" a "theatrical adapter named Stirling" is gibbeted; and we hear of the plaintive letter addressed to the author imploring him "not to kill poor Smike." At the end of this chapter there is an excellent portrait of Dickens, executed in outline by Mr. C. H. Jeens, from the picture painted by Maclise; and the same picture, under the skilful engraving handiwork of Mr. Robert Graves, A.R.A., has furnished the volume with a frontispiece of an unusually happy kind. In the tenth chapter there are some delightful autobiographical pieces. In the eleventh, the time has now come for Dickens seriously to busy himself with a successor to "Pickwick" and "Nickleby;" and "Master Humphrey's Clock" gets as far at least as the title. The twelfth is full of the most charming glimpses of "The Old Curiosity Shop" and dear "Little Nell." The thirteenth exhibits Dickens in motley, the time having come "to play his gambols" at Devonshire-terrace and Broadstairs. The fourteenth is devoted principally to Barnaby Rudge and *the* raven, which, after having talked "to himself about the horse and Topping's family," and having added "some incoherent expressions which are supposed to have been either a foreboding of his approaching dissolution or some wishes relative to the disposal of his little property, consisting chiefly of halfpence which he had buried in different parts of the garden," suddenly "exclaimed, *Halloa, old girl!* (his favourite expression) and died." The fifteenth chapter takes us, with Dickens, to Edinburgh; the sixteenth to the Highlands; the seventeenth back to Broadstairs; and from the eighteenth to the last we are almost entirely occupied with American topics, fidgeting and yearning in concert with Dickens until he really starts, and then, when he has arrived at the "bright home" which is "in the settin' sun," watching him sympathisingly as he gathers the rough material to be woven into the somewhat clumsy form of "American Notes," and into the inimitable fabric of "Martin Chuzzlewit." And, when we have come to the end, we, in spite of Mr. Bumble's horror, follow the example of Oliver, "asking for more."

THE MAGAZINES.

Were there reason to apprehend a diminution in the quantity or a degeneration in the quality of English fiction, it would be ominous to see a periodical of the standing of the *Cornhill* resorting to a French author, or rather French authors. Fortunately, English novelists can afford to proffer MM. Erckmann and Chatrian a fraternal welcome, especially as the English rendering of their "Story of the Plébiscite" is so easy and idiomatic as to read like an original work. The author's purpose is, of course, to portray the simplicity of the French peasantry, their amenability to official guidance in political matters, and the unworthy manner in which these characteristics were abused by the Imperial planner of the plébiscite, to his country's ruin and his own. This field, though for obvious reasons untrodden in France, has been pretty well occupied in England by Mr. Grenville Murray. Our countryman has the advantage in humour and incisiveness; the French writer in subtlety, and we must suppose in accuracy of observation. The first instalment brings the story down to the outbreak of the war. A frank, sailor-like narrative of the mishaps of the Megæra is interesting, but adds little to the information already before the public. "A Persian Passion Play," by Matthew Arnold, treats of a dramatic performance annually given in Persia in commemoration of the martyrdom of the Imam Hussein and his family, which presents many points of analogy with the Ammergau representation. Mr. Arnold's own reflections are pertinent, but it is unfortunate that he should depend so exclusively on the account furnished by Count Gobineau, whose imagination is lively and whose authority is not always unimpeachable. "A Reminiscence of Eton Life" is a very excellent specimen of the style of public-school fiction which came in with "Tom Brown." In the pretty prose idyll, "Solus cum Sola," we seem to recognise the hand that penned the fanciful and poetical letterpress of E.V.B.'s incomparable "Dream-Book." On the whole, this is a very good number.

Macmillan is also good and exceptionally fresh and original. These characteristics especially belong to three of the slighter articles—"A Morning at the Tuileries," a really appalling sketch of the mischievous influences that beset Parisian children; "A Day at Como," a charming picture of fine scenery beheld in the light of historical and intellectual associations; and "The Arts in Captivity," a powerful account of the rapacious spoliation of works of art perpetrated by Napoleon. Nothing, perhaps, gives so low an idea of the moral standard of French historians and politicians as their habitual justification of these disgraceful proceedings. The style of "A Week in the West" has imbibed much of the untrammeled vigour of the energetic society so graphically depicted by the writer. "Christina North," commenced in this number, is a domestic story, scarcely adapted for masculine readers. The only contribution of the usual solid class is Mr. A. Dicey's carefully-reasoned paper on legal education. Differing from many other authorities, Mr. Dicey holds that the office of the Inns of Court should rather be to afford legal instruction themselves than to test the quality of that imparted by others, and he considers that the institution of high-class instruction in jurisprudence would be attended with success.

Blackwood is not remarkable this month. The best contributions are an able defence of the present constitution of the House of Lords, an essay on the illustration of argument by metaphor, and two very graceful lyrics by Mr. F. Locker. "The Maid of Sker" is less interesting than heretofore, the principal personage being this month a melodramatic clergyman, not an ineffective figure in himself, but out of keeping with the generally idyllic character of the story.

Fraser is not distinguished by liveliness this month, for the only paper that aims at being amusing—"The Anglicani and their Thirty-nine Formulæ"—is a heavy piece of pleasantry indeed. There are, however, several excellent contributions, foremost among which stands the second part of Baron Stoffel's report on the military forces of Prussia in 1869. Perhaps the most interesting part of this valuable document is the Baron's review of the political situation at the time. Nothing can be more explicit than his declaration that the war, which he regarded as inevitable, would not be brought about by any aggression on the part of Prussia. "A Religion for the Hindoos" is in the form of a dialogue between a traveller and a missionary. It is evidently by the author of "The Planter in Mysore," and enforces the idea, propounded in that remarkable book, that the most judicious course for the present is rather the reformation than the subversion of Hindoo religion. The writer displays more logical than dramatic power. "Papal Ireland" is a vigorous exposure of the mischiefs which may be expected to attend upon the Home Rule agitation. We fancy, however, that the priesthood will find it easier to enter into the movement than to mould it to their own purposes. A very interesting paper on the Swedish Constitution minutely describes that curious, antiquated, but still workable, political mechanism.

The *Fortnightly*, as usual, is serious and profound. The most valuable paper is Miss Helen Taylor's brief but conclusive reply to Professor Huxley's assertion of the right of the State to discourage—i.e., to persecute—obnoxious doctrines. Miss Taylor rests her case entirely on the admitted fact of human fallibility; she might have expanded and fortified her argument by insisting upon the immense mischief of prohibiting the free exercise of human faculties in any direction. Mr. Herbert Spencer assails Professor Huxley on a point where he is less vulnerable—the expediency of Governmental interference with social organisation to any extent. From the accepted biological maxim, that "in proportion as there is to be efficiency there must be specialisation," Mr. Spencer deduces the law that the more the functions of Government are limited the more effectually they will be performed. Admitting this, it still is evident, as Mr. Spencer himself acknowledges, that the sphere of Governmental agency exists somewhere, and the question whether any particular subject comes within its scope will always remain to be discussed on its own merits. Mr. Probyn's paper on "Church and State in Italy" contains the text of the recent Italian legislation on the Papal guarantees. The Italian Government seems not to have perceived that its vaunted principle, "A free Church in a free State," involves an abdication of all control over the clergy. It is exceedingly strange that Liberal Catholics should everywhere, apparently as a matter of course, surrender the administration of ecclesiastical affairs into the hands of their adversaries, when it would be so easy to keep them in their own.

Very few, we imagine, of Mr. Tennyson's sincere friends desire to see any more Arthurian idylls from his hand. Too addition, however, to the series of the one now published in the *Contemporary Review* may be vindicated on the ground of its being really necessary to the completeness of the work that the destruction of the Round Table should be foreshadowed before the actual occurrence of the catastrophe. For this purpose the poet has chosen the episode of Tristram and Isoult, and has forcibly conveyed the boding instinct of impending calamity. On this very account, however, the poem should never have appeared dissociated from the rest. Its significance depends entirely upon its position as a constituent of an organic whole. Isolated from its context, its suggestiveness is destroyed; nor is the injury redeemed by any extraordinary merits of literary workmanship. In fact, no piece of Mr. Tennyson's is more fertile in the mannerisms which occasionally mar the general perfection of his style, and the high key in which the diction is usually pitched produces far more the effect of calculation than of genuine passion. Fine lines and images occur, of course; and the difficult attempt to draw a mediæval jester is not entirely unsuccessful. The *Review* also contains two remarkable papers by eminent professors—Mr. Huxley's, on Yeast, important from its bearing on the controversies respecting spontaneous generation and the propagation of disease by germs, and Mr. Max Müller's popular outline of his views on Mythology. Dr. Littledale's essay on the secular studies of the clergy is a formidable illustration of the amount at once of inborn faculty and acquired accomplishment expected from our spiritual guides in these days. If the business of the Church really cannot be conducted on easier terms, it evidently cannot be conducted at all. "Henry Helbeach's" criticism on George Macdonald hits the medium between rigour and panegyric with singular felicity.

The lively, rambling, and decidedly individual "Valley of Poppies" attains a somewhat abrupt and unexpectedly tragical termination in this month's *Gentleman's Magazine*. "The Autobiography of a Small Terrier" is continued with undiminished spirit, and there are several amusing miscellaneous papers. The *Dark Blue* has, as usual, a great variety of articles of very unequal merit. Two stand out distinctly from the rest—Mr. Barraclough's disquisition on physical training, and Mr. Thomas Arnold's on the improvement of the course of teaching in the Universities. Mr. Arnold's observations have especial reference to the peculiarity which always so greatly surprises foreigners—the limited influence of the professional compared with the tutorial body. His remedy is the revival of the ancient faculties. "Carmilla" is, so far, more poetical and less sensational than the majority of Mr. Lefanu's fictions.

Temple Bar is signalised by the very satisfactory termination of "Ought We To Visit Her?" the best novel Mrs. Edwards has ever written. "Good-by, Sweetheart," is almost entirely dialogue, and neither the speakers nor the topics possess much interest this month. A critical essay on Byron and Shelley is an indirect attempt to exalt the former poet by drawing a parallel between him and the latter. It is more skilfully executed than the similar endeavour in the last *Quarterly*, but the points of contrast come out more forcibly than those of resemblance. The most remarkable contributions to the *St. James's Magazine* are the Bishop of Derry's essay on Mr. Matthew Arnold and a scheme for dividing London into huge blocks of consecutively numbered houses, to facilitate postal communication. The plan is pregnant with inconveniences which have escaped the attention of the sanguine projector. All that is valuable in it might be ensured by simply abolishing the duplicate titles of streets. There is nothing noteworthy in *Belgravia*. *Tinsley* and *London Society* are almost exactly alike—lively and agreeable, without anything demanding special notice.

We have also to acknowledge "Good Words," the "Victoria Magazine," the "Monthly Packet," "Golden Hours," "Once a Week," the "Leisure Hour," the "Sunday Magazine," "Cassell's Magazine," and the "Microscopic Magazine."

Several of the magazines have already issued their usual Christmas supplements, all sufficiently appropriate to the season.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

The Croydon stewards took an unfortunate step when they postponed their steeplechase meeting for a fortnight, as, though it could have been brought off last week, yet frost has again set in with such severity that the postponement of it from day to day during the present week seemed almost a farce, and there appears little chance of the fixture taking place for some time to come. There is consequently a great dearth of turf news, the sale of some of Prince Soltykoff's horses and the annual letting of the late Earl of Glasgow's blood sires being about the only events of interest. The two-year-olds Duster and Manager sold pretty well, making 370 gs. and 500 gs. respectively; while old Tibthorpe, who still retains much of his fine speed, and must be a valuable trial horse for two-year-olds, was bought in for 470 gs. The sires did not let at nearly such high prices as they have previously done. General Peel, who has furnished into a very fine horse, returned to Swalcliffe at 250 gs.; while Mr. R. Cooper took Knowsley, with certain conditions, at 400 gs. Colonel Maude hired The Drake for the Royal stud at 300 gs.; and Rapid Rhone was taken by Lord Penrhyn as a hunting sire at just half that figure. A colt by Tom Bowline and Draco were the only remaining ones that secured an engagement.

In spite of unfavourable weather, the great Newmarket coursing meeting was brought to a satisfactory conclusion last week; and this year no one could complain of a scarcity of hares, which were plentiful and ran very stoutly. The running is likely to have great influence on future events, as some of the best puppies in England contested the Champion Stakes. Backers were very unfortunate in the first round of this event, as they generally managed to lay odds on the wrong one. The defeat of Curaçoa, a much over-rated greyhound, by Real Pickle, was the first severe blow they received; and this was shortly followed by the unexpected victory of South Coast over Belle of Soham, the latter being a daughter of Saucebox, the old Newmarket favourite, and herself a winner of this stake. Captain Loyd-Lind say, one of the four which divided the great prize at Bothal, was also put out by Peasant Boy, after a rattling trial, in which the hare slightly favoured the former, so there is no excuse for him; but Master Nat, on which 5 to 2 was laid, was unfortunate, as, after showing a brilliant turn of speed and running up a long score in his favour, he got on to some heavy ground, and, tiring to nothing, let Magic just win through her superior stamina. In the first ties the favourites fared much better; indeed, backers had a good time of it for the remainder of the meeting; and eventually Pevensey, by Boanerges from Bertha, all of whose produce—Pauline, Pensive, Premier, Pilgrim, to wit—seem to show good form, divided with Peasant Boy by Racing Hopfactor—Placid. In the All-Aged Stakes Lady Lonsdale showed great superiority to most of her opponents, scarcely allowing Pilgrim to score a point in the final course; and Lord Lurgan's victory was extremely popular. Bessie got into the last four, but Fandango, Countryman, and Musical were soon put out. Frost stopped the Bridekirk Meeting, and the Brigg fixture has been postponed till Jan. 23 and following days for the same cause.

THE FARM.

THE CATTLE SHOW.

The slight fall of snow on Sunday last, which was followed by sharp frosts, has been very seasonable for the week of the Smithfield Club Cattle Show. At Islington, on Saturday last, a good deal of excitement prevailed as the beasts arrived, inasmuch as some of them were suffering from foot-and-mouth disease; and, in accordance with the rules of the Privy Council, they would be rejected. This happened in the case of eighteen, and thirty others were not forthcoming; the show, consequently, was a little short in numbers, and, viewed in comparison with former exhibitions, can only be described as a moderate display. The excellence, however, of Mr. Stratton's white ox, Mr. Bruce's black heifer, and some of the pens of sheep, redeemed the weakness of several classes, and made the show well worth seeing; indeed, by the large number of visitors that were present on Tuesday and Wednesday, it appears to be more popular than ever.

The Devons and Herefords were both numerous and good classes, notwithstanding these two breeds suffered most by the rejection of the infected animals. The first class of young Devons was very appropriately headed by a fine 2 years and 3 months steer, bred by her Majesty at the Prince Consort's Norfolk Farm, which gained the first prize; and the third premium was awarded to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Mr. Senior being second. Mr. W. Smith was first in the older class, and Mr. Bond won the oxen, the prize ox at Birmingham being thrown out by disease. In the cow class were two well-known prize-winners, Musk and Actress; but Mr. Davy's Actress, although rather patchy, had kept her form well in her twelfth year, and was placed before Mr. Smith's Musk, who was only about half her age. Mr. Senior was first in a good class of heifers.

The class of Hereford oxen was commended by the judges, Messrs. Keary, Smythies, and Pope. Mr. W. Heath was first with a large ox of Mr. Meire's breeding; Mr. L. Loyd coming second and Mr. Ford third. In the younger class a large hairy steer of Mr. Groves beat Mr. Wortley's (second) and Mr. Hall's (third), the Windsor beast being hardly up enough. Her Majesty's heifer Victoria Alexandra was at the head of the heifer class, which was commended, and the cows were an even, good lot. The Birmingham winner, Mr. Betteridge's Dainty 5th, was here beaten by Mr. Wortley's Young Countess.

Mr. Stratton's white ox, which took the £100 plate as the best beast in the hall, somewhat made up for the weak show of shorthorns. Messrs. Torr, Savidge, and Ruddock, in quick and satisfactory judging, had no difficulty in placing him, and when the prize winners were paraded for the plate it seemed almost a settled thing. Mr. Bruce's black-polled heifer took the cup for the best female, and is certainly a very sweet beast, round, ripe, and even, and of fine quality. She became a little tender on her feet, and Mr. Brown's white cross-bred heifer run her pretty close for the cup, the votes being at one time three and three. The white ox is one of the best that has been sent up from the Wiltshire stalls. He had the disease a year ago, and went on wonderfully well after. He is four years and a quarter old, and was bred from April Rose, the dam of several winners. The sire and dam of Mr. Farthing's second prize ox was also bred by Mr. Stratton. In a rather weak class of young steers Mr. Bruce beat the Lockinge and Osberton oxen; but Colonel Loyd-Lindsay came to the fore with a neat young steer. Sir W. Trevelyan's red and white cow Princess of Oxford, first in her class, is just of the same stamp and colour as the one sent up from Northumberland a few years ago. Among the heifers the Rev. R. B. Kennard was first with Christabel, a good large but rather uneven heifer, Mr. How being third with a very neat one.

Some useful Sussex cattle were exhibited; but we have seen finer shows of this breed. Mrs. Coote and Mr. Steere were first with oxen, and the Right Hon. H. Brand and Mr. T. Smith with cows and heifers. The polled and long-horned classes were both weak; neither were the Highland cattle so good as have often been seen. Mr. Leigh was first with a dun, five years old; and Mr. M'Combie, M.P., second. The Scotch polls had Mr. Bruce's fine black heifer at their head, and Mr. Postle was first in steers with one bred in Norfolk. The crossbred and extra-stock cattle were numerous and good, an immense black-grey ox of Mr. W. Brown taking the £25 prize.

The £50 cup for the best pen of sheep falling to a lot of Lincolns caused some excitement among the breeders. They were a remarkably fine pen, weighing 8¼ cwt., and bred by Mr. J. Byron, from the Kirkham flock. Mr. Rigden took the £20 cup with a pen of Southdowns of capital quality, though not well matched. Sir W. Throckmorton was first with light sheep; the Duke of Richmond won with a fat wether; and Mr. H. D. Barclay with ewes. The Leicesters were not numerous; but the late Lord Berners's were good specimens, and won two first prizes. Lord Chesham took two first prizes and the cup with Shropshires; and the Duke of Marlborough won with Oxfordshire Downs.

There was a good show of pigs, and a fine pen of small whites from Windsor were first in a large class; but among the blacks Mr. J. Biggs won the first prize and cup with three of immense size. The confined space in the galleries restricts the display of implements; but the usual makers had stands, with but few novelties. The show of roots and cabbages was numerous, and some immense specimens might be seen.

The general meeting, on Tuesday, was largely attended, but rather stormy, on account of the rejected animals. In 1854 the disease was very bad at the Baker-street Show, and nearly every animal was down; but there were no restrictions in force then, and the butchers were the chief sufferers. It seems probable now that nearly every beast will become affected more or less before the show closes, and little business will be done until the last day. There was a general impression among most of the exhibitors and breeders that the Privy Council restrictions as to the foot-and-mouth disease should be withdrawn.

In Donegal county the house of farmer Doherty has been maliciously burnt and his cattle destroyed.

After considerable delay, the Pope has appointed Dr. Ryan, parish priest of Nenagh, to the vacant Roman Catholic bishopric of Killaloe.

At a meeting of the ratepayers of Aberystwith, on Wednesday, it was decided unanimously to adopt the Public Libraries and Museums Act.

The foundation-stone of the new building in extension of the Queen's Hospital at Birmingham was laid, on Monday, by Lord Leigh, with Masonic honours. An illustration of the ceremony will be given next week.

The *Publishers' Circular* says it is proposed to erect a memorial to William Cowper, the poet, in the church of his birthplace, Great Berkhampstead, Hertfordshire, of which his father was Rector. Those who are inclined to help in this object are requested to communicate either with the Rector, Great Berkhampstead, or with Mr. William Longman, Paternoster-row, London.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The directors of the Bank of England have reduced the rate of discount from 4 to 3½ per cent.

A fine young pair of the grey seal (Halichœrus grypus) has been added to the London Zoological Society's living collection.

The meetings of the Royal Microscopical Society take place at King's College on the first Wednesday in each month.

The vestry-hall and old burial-ground of St. Clement Danes have been bought for the site of the new Law Courts, at a cost of £10,000.

The London branch of the National Education League has been dissolved, owing to the differences amongst its members upon the question of forming schools on secular principles.

The annual distribution of prizes and the dinner of the 2nd Middlesex Artillery took place, last Saturday evening, at the Cannon-street Hotel—Lieutenant-Colonel Cox in the chair.

A morning performance is advertised to be given at the Globe Theatre, to-day (Saturday), in aid of the fund for Mr. Mark Lemon's widow and children.

The anniversary meeting of the Royal Society was held on Thursday week, when a retiring address was read by Sir Edward Sabine, who reviewed the present position of many branches of science. Professor Airy, the Astronomer Royal, was elected president for the ensuing year.

There was a numerously-attended gathering of Masons in London on Wednesday night—the Marquis of Ripon, Grand Master of England, presiding. A resolution was unanimously passed expressing regret at the illness of the Prince of Wales and hope for the speedy recovery of his Royal Highness.

A cat show was opened at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, when two popular beliefs were contravened by the presence of a tortoiseshell tom and a blue-eyed white cat that was not deaf. Amongst other foreigners in the collection was a captive made in the late Abyssinian war.

The dinner in aid of the funds of the French Hospital and Dispensary, which was to have taken place at Willis's Rooms, on the 12th inst., under the presidency of the Duc de Broglie, the French Ambassador, has been postponed, on account of the protracted illness of the Prince of Wales, until early next year.

Last week the total number of paupers in the metropolis was 120,495, of whom 34,625 were indoor and 85,870 received outdoor relief. Compared with the years 1870, 1869, and 1868, this shows a decrease of 18,002, 24,293, and 20,541 respectively. The total number of vagrants relieved was 997.

A conference of Roman Catholic prelates was held at Bayswater, last week, at which a commission was appointed to report upon the nature of the studies now pursued at the Catholic colleges, with a view to consider what steps may be required to provide further branches of study for the more advanced students.

Mr. Corbett, Poor-Law Inspector, on Monday presided over a conference of representatives from thirty-six of the metropolitan board of guardians at the City Terminus Hotel. The discussion turned upon the question as to how far it was practicable to improve the present administration of outdoor relief, and resolutions with this object in view were adopted.

At a meeting of the Court of Aldermen on Tuesday it was reported that, notwithstanding the decision of the House of Lords last Session, the Endowed Schools Commissioners had revived their former scheme for the government of Emmanuel Hospital. On the other hand, the committee of governors had prepared a draught scheme of a very liberal character.

The average number of visitors admitted to the London International Exhibition of 1871 by payment, on each day of the week, was as follows:—Monday, admission, 1s., 9310; Tuesday, admission 1s., 9868; Thursday, admission, 1s., 10,151; Friday, admission, 1s., 7604; Saturday, admission 1s., 9496; Wednesday, admission 2s. 6d., 2958.

The 207th anniversary of the Scottish Corporation (an institution for the assistance of indigent Scotchmen in England) was celebrated, on Thursday week (St. Andrew's Day), at the Freemasons' Tavern. The Marquis of Lorne occupied the chair; and subscriptions to the amount of £1500 were announced, including 100 gs. from her Majesty and 25 gs. from Princess Louise.

Mr. Le Breton has reported to the Hampstead Vestry that the Metropolitan Board of Works have completed the purchase of Hampstead-heath from Sir John Wilson and Mr. Spencer Wilson, by the payment of £45,000 and £2000 for expenses. A service of plate and a purse containing £500 were, last Saturday, presented to Mr. Le Breton, in recognition of his services in endeavouring to secure the heath for the use of the public.

With the exception of the Serpentine, the waters in the metropolitan parks were in the early part of the week covered with a thin coating of ice. Many persons ventured upon the frozen surface, and there were several immersions. Fifteen persons took their morning bath voluntarily in the Serpentine on Tuesday, there being little ice upon it; and it is stated that an average of twenty persons daily have bathed there for some time past, notwithstanding the cold.

At the Metropolitan Board of Works, yesterday week, a long report was read on the causes to which the Coroner's jury attributed the death of the fireman Ford. These were the use of wire netting instead of wire gauze and the combustibility of the canvas shoots of the fire escape. The report stated that in practice it had been found that gauze, when exposed to the blaze from the windows of a house on fire, was in a red heat in a few seconds, and was really not so good as wire, and that the canvas shoots could not be made incombustible.

Lord Vernon, on Wednesday, presided over a meeting of the French Peasant Farmers' Seed Fund, at which the executive committee presented their final report. From this, and from the opening speech of the noble chairman, it would appear that the total subscriptions to the fund had amounted to £51,582, that the seed purchased had been distributed amongst 100,000 occupiers of land, and that there remains in hand an available balance of £1000. A resolution was carried empowering the executive committee to appropriate the surplus towards the relief of the most deserving peasant farmers.

The deaths registered in London last week were 1918 in number, which was 224 above the average. The deaths from smallpox, which in the two previous weeks had been 76 and 67, rose to 87, a higher number than has occurred in any week since the end of September, and exceeding by 59 the average weekly number. There were 83 deaths from measles, 39 from scarlet fever, 10 from diphtheria, 72 from whooping-cough, 39 from different forms of fever (of which 12 were certified as typhus, 19 as enteric or typhoid, and 8 as simple continued fever), and 16 from diarrhœa. Excepting a decline in the fatal cases of fever, the deaths resulting from each of the six other diseases showed an increase upon those in recent weeks. The fatal cases of bronchitis, which in the three previous weeks had been 180, 287, and 380, further rose to 457.

SANTA CRUZ, PACIFIC OCEAN.

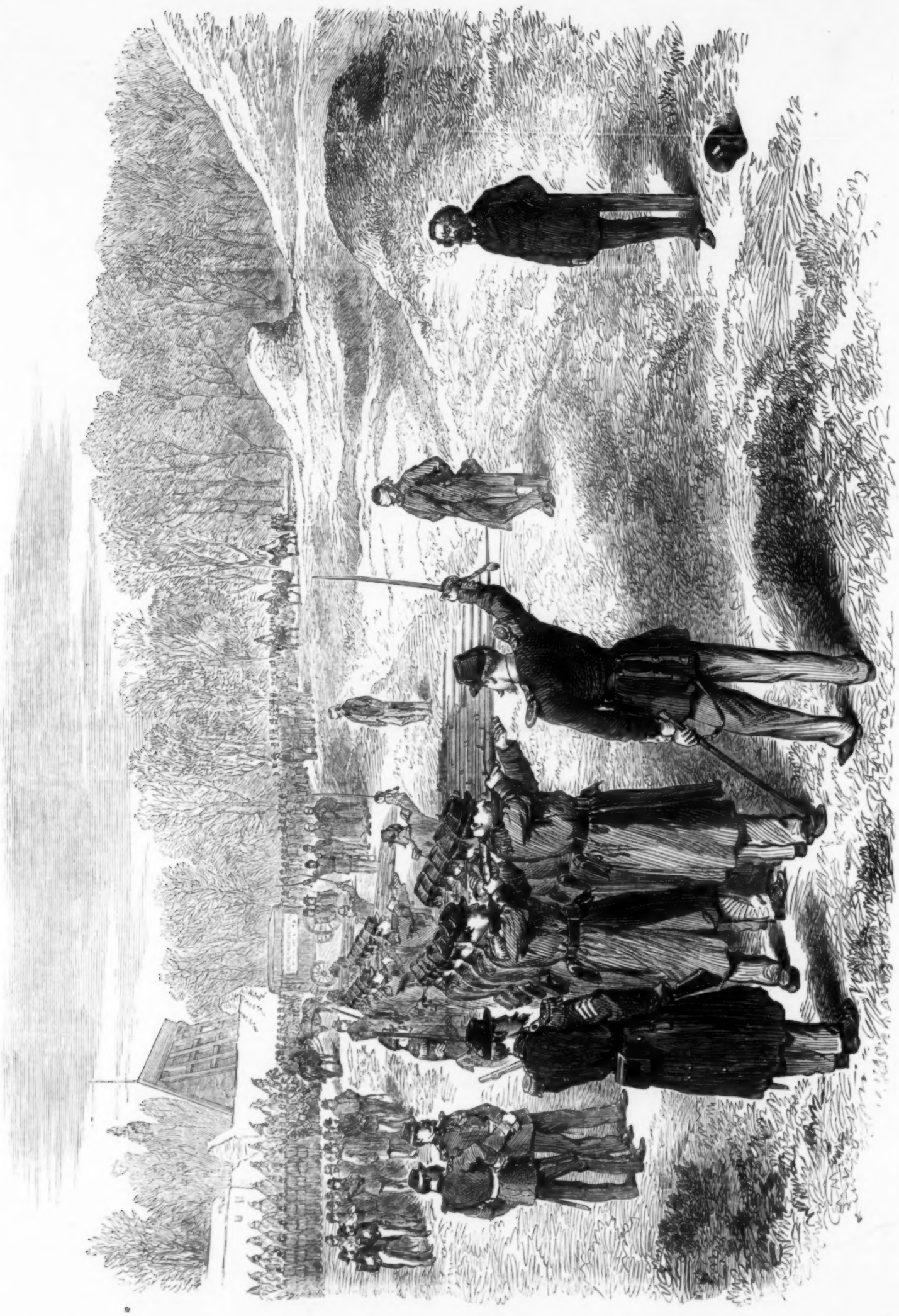
The shocking news of the murder of Bishop Coleridge Patteson and another English missionary clergyman by the savages on the island of Santa Cruz was lately mentioned in this Journal. Santa Cruz is one of the North Hebrides Islands, a group midway between the New Hebrides and the Solomon Islands, distant from these about 150 miles, nearly 500 miles from the Fiji Islands, and at least 800 miles from the nearest coast of New Holland, or from New Guinea. It will be found on the map in latitude 11 deg. south, and longitude 166 deg. east. All these islands are comprised in the English Church Missionary Diocese of Melanesia, but do not belong to the British Empire, or to any civilised State. It is asserted that the natives are frequently kidnapped by vessels engaged in a clandestine slave trade, and are carried off, against their will, to forced labour in the sugar and cotton plantations of Fiji, owned by English settlers from Queensland or New South Wales. Bishop Patteson had protested against this illegal and infamous practice. He had written a report on the subject, which was printed in the *New Zealand Church News* of last October. It appears that the kidnappers had, in some instances, had the effrontery to use the Bishop's name as a decoy to persuade the poor people, who knew him, to come on board their ships. He expressed his apprehensions lest the wronged islanders should revenge themselves upon the next boat's crew that might land on their shore; but, as he relied upon his own acquaintance with them, and upon their goodwill towards him, he did not fear to go there for his usual visit. Unhappily, his confidence was mistaken, and he has fallen a victim to the crimes of his unworthy countrymen, a martyr to the cause of humanity and Christianity, in those remote isles of the Pacific Ocean.

THE EXECUTIONS AT SATORY.

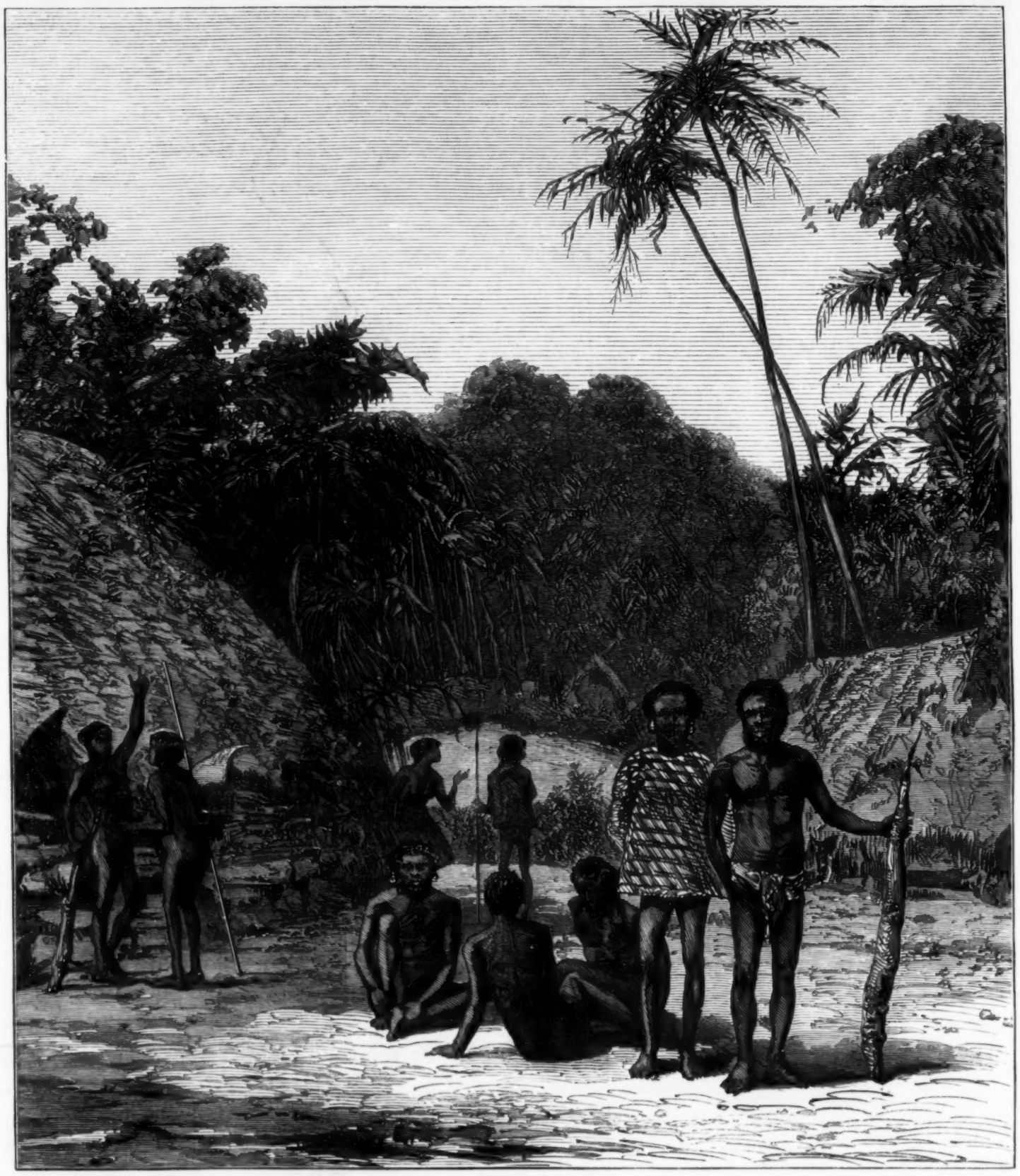
The execution of the sentence of death passed by the Council of War at Versailles upon the Communist leaders Rossel, Ferré, and Bourgeois, took place in the Polygon of the Camp at Satory, on Tuesday week, at seven o'clock in the morning. At Marseilles there was another person condemned to death, Gaston Crémieux, who suffered on Thursday week. Much interest was felt by many people in the fate of Rossel, and it was hoped that the Committee of Pardons, appointed by the National Assembly, would grant a commutation of the penalty in his case. On the previous Friday afternoon a deputation of eighty Parisian young men went to Versailles to ask the President of the Republic, M. Thiers, to intervene for this purpose. They carried with them an address, signed by De Lanessan, a medical student, Paulint, a law student, and three others, imploring M. Thiers to order the judgments of the Council of War and the Council of Revision, with regard to Rossel, to be submitted to the Cour de Cassation. They declared that Rossel's youth and character, his ardent patriotism, and his talents had excited general sympathy. He could not be viewed as a soldier who had abandoned his country's cause to take up arms in the ranks of her enemies. He had acted under the inspiration of a political sentiment, and would ever be esteemed the victim of his opinions; in the eyes of many fanatics he would be a martyr. His execution would provoke much grief and regret, possibly hatred. The deputation told M. Thiers that they knew him personally to be an advocate of mercy, and they were aware that the Committee of Pardons was solely invested with the power of decision. But France was so much accustomed to regard the prerogative of mercy as the exclusive attribute of him who governed, that history would hold him responsible for the act. The young men, on arriving at Versailles, stopped a few minutes in the Avenue, forming a circle for discussion upon a rumour they had heard that Rossel was already put to death. This attracted the notice of the people, and a crowd of nearly two thousand persons soon assembled. A police officer approached, and informed them that public meetings were not allowed. He took the names of their leaders, and the deputation then proceeded to the Prefecture; but M. Thiers, who had been warned in time, was in the act of effecting his escape when he met them as he was getting into his carriage, and referred them in a few kindly words to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire. The President, whose anxious desire now is to get the Assembly back to Paris, did not see, in the crowd which this proceeding had attracted to the Avenue, a strong argument in its favour, and he hinted as much to the deputation as he got into his carriage and drove off, refusing even to listen to their address. M. St. Hilaire, upon whom the duty of receiving it now devolved, explained to the young men that, so far from benefiting the cause they desired to serve, they would injure it by giving a pretext to their enemies to accuse them of disorder and violence; but the deputation repudiated any intention of exercising any pressure which was not legitimate, and M. St. Hilaire accepted their petition, as well as others with which they were intrusted from Paris merchants and French ladies. Finding that they could do nothing with M. Thiers, they went to the office of the Committee of Pardons, and left with the usher a respectful address intreating that clemency might be shown to Rossel. "We are sons," they said, "asking pardon for their brother, and asking this pardon of their fathers." They dwelt on the circumstance that by the Constitution of 1848, confirmed by the laws of 1853 and 1857, France had abolished the punishment of death for political offences. They urged that this punishment ought not to be reimposed by a council of war.

These remonstrances proved of no avail; but till late on the Monday evening, the night before the execution, Rossel's family and friends were busied in endeavours to gain a reprieve. Rossel was daily visited in the prison of St. Pierre, at Versailles, by his father and mother and two sisters, and by a Protestant minister, M. Passa. His mother is a Scotch lady, whose name was Campbell, and all his family are Protestants. He seems to have passed much time in religious meditation and prayer. Very different was the character of Ferré, the most violent of the Communist dictators, who gave orders for the slaughter of the Archbishop, Judge Bonjean, and other hostages at La Roquette, and for the burning of the Tuileries. This man seemed only to feel the misfortunes of his family, which are, indeed, severe: his father is a convict in the galleys at La Rochelle, for his share in the Communist outrages; his brother, likewise under sentence, has become insane; his mother has died in madness, and his sister, lately released from prison, was toiling to earn a little money for her brother's comfort. Ferré was sincerely affected in conversation by any allusion to his sister and other relatives, but he professed to entertain no fear of death on his own account, and usually affected an indifferent air. The third man sentenced to die on the same morning, Bourgeois, was a sergeant in the army, who had mutinied and struck one of his officers, and had afterwards fought under the Commune.

The prisoners were conducted from the prison at half-past six o'clock. The street was lined with Cuirassiers of the Guard. Rossel was accompanied by M. Passa, the clergyman, and M. Joly, his advocate, who, with him, entered the van



EXECUTION OF ROSSEL, FERRE, AND BOURGEOIS AT SATORY, NEAR PARIS.



SCENE OF THE MURDER OF BISHOP PATTESON, SANTA CRUZ, PACIFIC OCEAN.

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In a few moments the drums announced the arrival of vans, which drew up in the middle of the square, and from h a prisoner descended. Rossel, still accompanied by his tor and advocate, between whom he walked, attended by a gle gendarme, approached the stake nearest him. He was ll calm, and the expression of his face was of perfect peace. ere was an entire absence of anything like bravado. His itude was exactly that which a brave man's under such cumstances should be. He shook hands with those who accompanied him, as also with an officer who came up and spoke to him. He once more asked, in a clear tone, audible to all, if there was any one of his judges present, as he wished to shake him by the hand before he died, as a sign that he admitted he had done his duty in condemning him. This caused a moment's delay, but no officer answered to the appeal; so Rossel quietly took off his greatcoat, put his back to the stake, standing erect as the bandage was tied over his eyes, and remained motionless.

Meantime the other two prisoners approached their respective stakes. Ferré, still smoking, walked up to the stake with a short, quick step, turning sharply round and boldly facing the shooting party. When the white handkerchief, like that with which the eyes of the other two were bandaged, was produced for him, he waved his hand in token of rejecting it, flung his hat carelessly upon the ground, drew himself up, and waited unflinchingly for the fatal word. It was impossible for men to face death with more fortitude than Rossel or with greater effrontery and indifference than the other two.

The three shooting parties advanced simultaneously to within ten paces of the stakes, and fired together, each party under the direction of its officer, at the word of command. Rossel was shot by a party of the corps of Engineers to which he belonged, and they showed a true mercy. As the volley rang out, with a slight spring he fell back stone dead. There was not the lapse of a second between the moment he was standing a strong living man and that in which his corpse was lying on the ground, without even a quiver. It was not so with the other two. Bourgeois, who was in the middle, fell at once, but was found to be not dead, and a soldier, as is usual in such cases, put the muzzle of his rifle to his head, and so killed him. Ferré, who was looking down the muzzles of the rifles which were aimed at him, seemed to have nerved himself to such a pitch that he remained standing motionless after the two others had fallen. For two or three seconds he stood upright after the whole volley had been fired from the first rank. It was not until the second rank fired, one or two seconds later, that his knees slowly bent, and he sank gently to the ground. Even then the dreadful *coup de grâce*, which was ordered because, in the opinion of the surgeon, life was not quite extinct, had to be given. Most of the spectators hurried from the spot, leaving the troops marching past the corpses.

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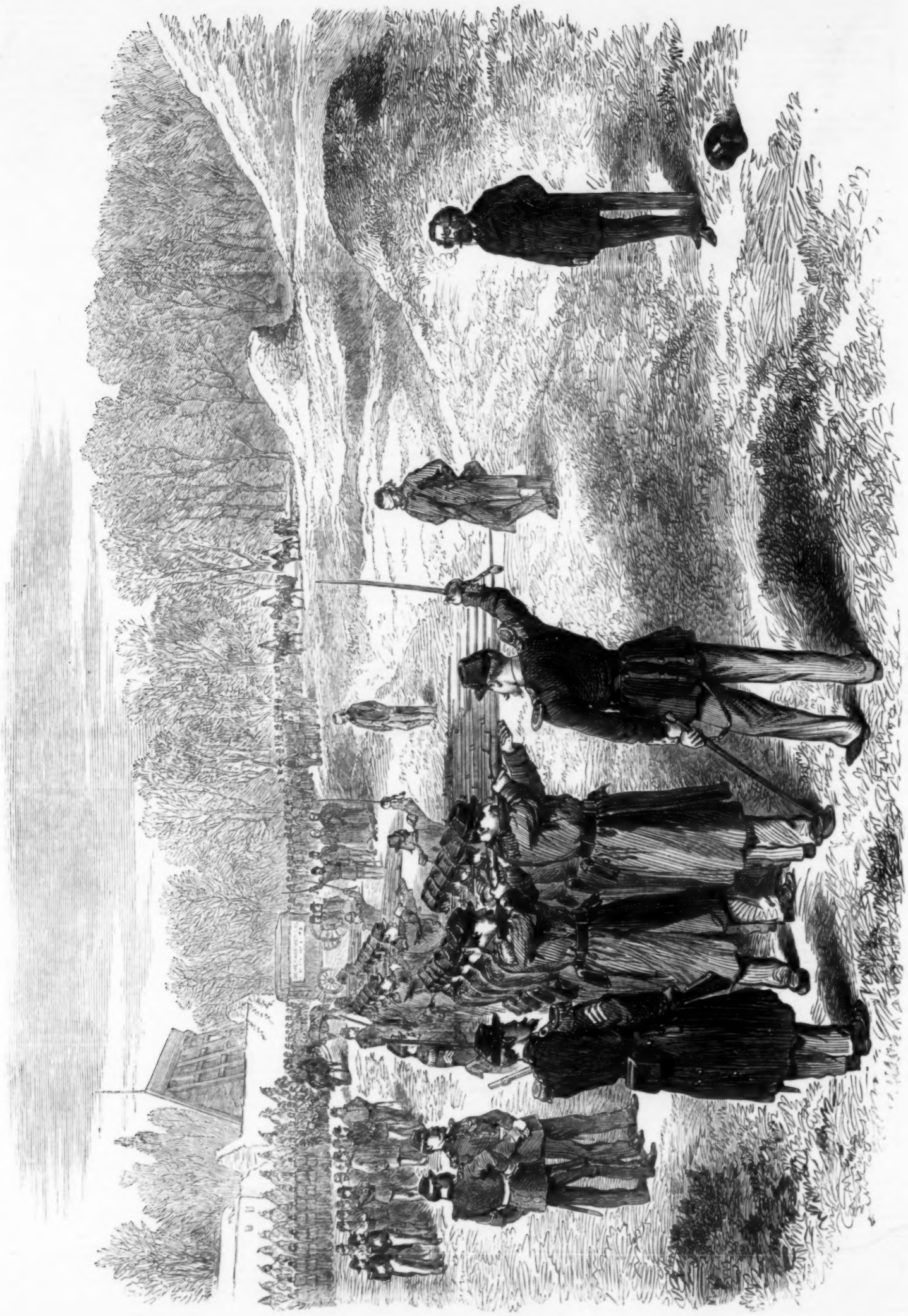
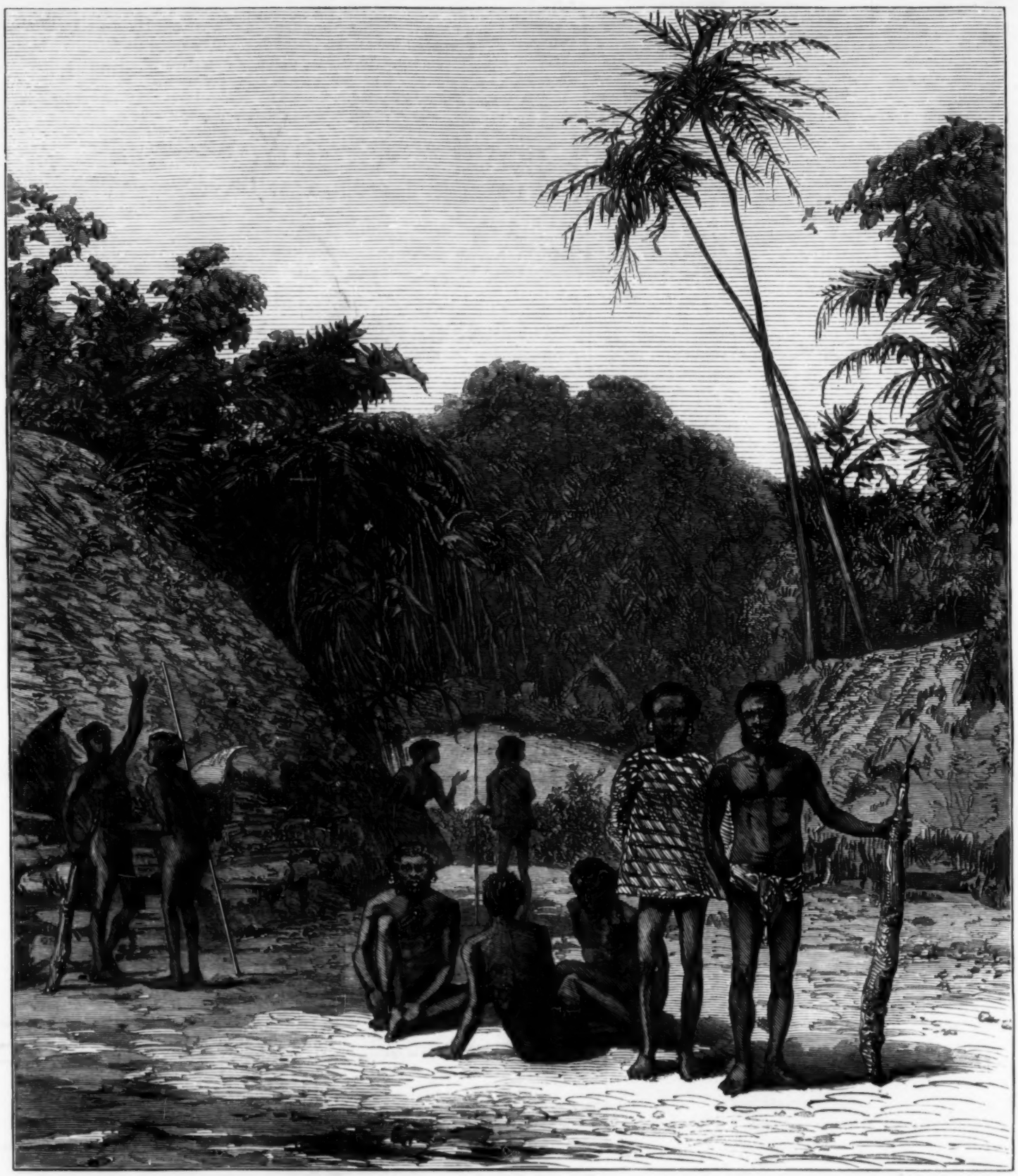


EXECUTION OF ROSSEL, FERRE, AND BOURGEOIS AT SATORY, NEAR PARIS.



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